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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV, No. 361. SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1913. ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

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For meaning of this No. see Page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

£1000
REWARD

SEE PAGE 621.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

AN ARTICLE FOR ALL ENGAGED IN BUSINESS.

You will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet you will agree they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So, if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

13 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F. A. S.," and "G. A."?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. Do you know how to take out a patent?
12. How would you draw a selling scheme?
13. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business.

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

A FREE BOOK.

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia," but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms to readers of JOHN BULL.

To THE CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." I am a reader of JOHN BULL

NAME .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

ADDRESS .....
.....

SEE PAGE 643.

CRICKET COMPETITION. NO. 1.

SEE PAGE 643.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches starting on May 12, 13 and 19.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

MATCHES.

1. Sussex	v.	Kent.
2. Essex	v.	Derbyshire.
3. Worcestershire	v.	Warwickshire.
4. Lancashire	v.	Yorkshire.
5. Notts	v.	Surrey.
6. Somerset	v.	Gloucestershire.
7. Northamptonshire	v.	Leicestershire.
8. M.C.C.	v.	Kent.
9. Hampshire	v.	Derbyshire.
10. Lancashire	v.	Notts.
11. Warwickshire	v.	Leicestershire.
12. Gloucestershire	v.	Yorkshire.
13. Northamptonshire	v.	Surrey.
14. Oxford Univ.	v.	H. K. Foster's XI.
15. Cambridge Univ.	v.	Sussex.
16. Middlesex	v.	Sussex.
17. Surrey	v.	Gloucestershire.
18. Essex	v.	Lancashire.
19. Somerset	v.	Yorkshire.
20. Hampshire	v.	Leicestershire.

I enter JOHN BULL Cricket Competition in accordance with the rules announced on page 643, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Cut here

Competitor's Guide.

As a guide to competitors we give below **LAST YEAR'S RESULTS** of the matches given on the attached coupon.

1. Match drawn.
2. Essex won by an innings and 27 runs.
3. Warwickshire won by 189 runs.
4. Match drawn.
5. Notts won by nine wickets.
6. Somerset won by three wickets.
7. Northampton won by nine wickets.
8. M.C.C. won by 78 runs.
9. Match drawn.
10. Match drawn.
11. Leicester won by three runs.
12. Yorkshire won by 247 runs.
13. Northampton won by nine wickets.
14. Oxford won by 14 runs.
15. Cambridge won by 10 wickets.
16. Middlesex won by an innings and 48 runs.
17. Surrey won by an innings and 87 runs.
18. Match drawn.
19. Yorkshire won by an innings and 136 runs.
20. Hants won by nine wickets.

As the competition is one of skill, you are also advised to study the cricket columns and reports given in the daily papers.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 361. Week ending Saturday, May 3rd, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET,** E.C. *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for APRIL 26th, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number **19,823.**

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Shrewsbury.

What do you think of it? Although we have been telling you, week after week, how firmly the movement for a Business Government has taken root in the public mind, you didn't quite expect to see us, after a three days' contest, giving the Party machine such a shaking-up, did you? Have a look at what we have to say on page 622.

The Bye-Elections.

Despite its natural desire to abstain from electoral trials of strength till the Marconi bubble has been finally dissolved, the Government is in for a couple of nasty fights—at Whitechapel and Newmarket. Personal sympathy *may* save Sir Stuart Samuel—but Newmarket is a "gonner."

Symptomatic!

Two private members have during the past week had an opportunity of doing something "on their own" in the House. And one of them has called attention to the Censorship of Plays, and the other has proposed that the Government should finance a theatre! Who says that the Party system does not produce statesmen?

Mr. Asquith Going——?

As we exclusively announced many weeks ago, Mr. Asquith is "going"—but whither? The latest rumour points to a judicial post—whereby hangs a story which we hope shortly to tell.

More Signs and Portents.

The other day Mr. Herbert Samuel presented the Post Office "Budget" to the House, and in the course of the discussion which followed, according to the *Daily Mail* report, "Mr. Walter Long heartily endorsed the suggestion of Mr. Harry Lawson that the Postmaster-General should have at his elbow *a body of business men to advise him on the needs of the commercial and industrial community.*" Good old Shrewsbury!

A Brilliant Judge.

The little classic in which he summed up the Alfred Douglas case to the Jury, once more directs attention to one of the most remarkable men who ever sat on the Bench. A great lawyer, an erudite scholar, a keen wit—and, withal, a very human being—Mr. Justice Darling stands out as the most striking personality of the King's Bench. We would always gladly lose a case before him for the pleasure, and advantage, of his company; and nothing worries us more in these latter days of our conventional respectability than the absence of our name from his Lordship's Cause List.

Prayers for China.

By the time these words are read, a certain number of well meaning, but not very well read, people will have "prayed" for China, whence the western world derived the best ingredients of its own faith—including the "golden rule" of Confucius. How would the Archbishop of Canterbury like the Chinese Churches to offer up a special prayer for our better recognition of that self-denying ordinance?

The Budget.

Mr. Lloyd George is getting tired. It will be remembered that during his examination at the Marconi Inquiry, he pleaded for consideration on the ground that he "was busily employed on the Budget." And now he leaves it to take its chance. To have a shortage of several millions on the current year's *certain* expenditure and to trust to making it up out of an *estimated* increase of revenue is not finance. It is a Wait-and-See Budget.

"John Bull's Boys."

Lady Scott has graciously signified her willingness to accept, on behalf of her little son Peter, the silver replica of his gallant father's boat, the *Terra Nova* (containing in its hold the story of the ill-fated expedition), the cost of which has been subscribed by readers of JOHN BULL. The model will, therefore, be at once put in hand, and we hope to reproduce the design at an early date. And, of course, young Evans will get *his* boat.

Our League Campaign.

The spring campaign of the John Bull League closed, in a blaze of glory, at the great Market Hall of Shrewsbury last week—the Sheffield meeting having been postponed till the autumn. All being well, we shall give the political world a surprise between now and then.

£1,000 waiting for you. See Our Great Cricket Competition. Page 643.

A Born Whip.

Dr. W. A. Chapple, Liberal M.P. for Stirlingshire, is a skilled mathematician who knows how to apply exact science to the political exigencies of the hour. He has lately been "figuring out" the attendances of Liberal and Conservative M.P.'s, and has found that the Tories are hopelessly outclassed in the matter of regular attention to their Parliamentary duties. The honourable gentleman is immensely proud of this discovery, and he has communicated the result of his labours to *The Times*. Not only are the Tories negligent in the ordinary course, but they have a stupid knack of turning up in great force when they are least expected, a manœuvre which is, of course, in the worst possible taste, and is calculated to throw the Party machine entirely out of gear. Apparently, the learned doctor propounds no remedy for this lamentable state of affairs. We confess to a similar helplessness. We can only urge him to remember that it's all part of the game. Meanwhile, we would respectfully suggest that the doctor should be made a Junior Whip. The Radicals badly need a Whip who can count.

A Desperate Flirtation.

We understand that certain of the Miners' M.P.'s have incurred the displeasure of the more "advanced" section of their supporters for "violating their Parliamentary pledge and 'coquetting' with Liberalism" "Coquetting" is hardly the word. We should have thought the flirtation had got far beyond that stage. There is every indication that the Labour Party in the House of Commons is indissolubly bound up with the rest of the Coalition as in the bonds of lawful wedlock. To vary the metaphor, the Labourites form at most the Labour tail of the Radical dog, and if, at times, the tail wags the dog, there is no risk of violent revolution so long as the Labour benches are filled with such harmless, respectable nonentities as are found there to-day. Most of them are much more at home in a prayer meeting than in a revolution. As we recently noted, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has shot a tiger. We shouldn't have thought him capable of anything so useful. Isn't big-game shooting rather a queer sport for "the banner bearer of the rude mechanicals"?

The Late Lord Gorell.

When Lord Gorell left the presidency of the Divorce and Admiralty Division it was with the intention of devoting what remained of his life to divorce reform. He became the author and chairman of the Divorce Commission, his was the main hand which drafted the Majority recommendations, and if they find their way into the statute book in whole or in part it will be due to his enthusiasm, his thoroughness, his human sympathy, and his wide experience of men and women in their relation to the marriage problem. "He has a skin full of man," said a friend to us one day in the courts, and so indeed he had. Quiet, patient, calm, kindly, observant, wide awake always and interrupting seldom—none of his contemporary colleagues on the judicial bench inspired greater confidence or was more popular.

Misses and the Missus.

"Health Week," inaugurated by Dr. Lechmere Anderson—to whom we recently awarded a biscuit for stating that "an average attack of simple appendicitis lasts from a week to seven days"—appears to have passed off more successfully than most of us would have supposed, seeing that one day Miss A. E. Montagu lectured on "The first year of a baby's life," and Miss Eva H. Jones delivered "A short lecture to mothers." There is a rumour in the town that Miss Flossie Gladhigh would have turned up to address the meeting on "How to hold baby the right way up," but she missed the train.

Audacity in Excelsis.

With the production of the unpublished "De profundis" letter there could be only one end to the libel action which Lord Alfred Douglas brought against the author of "Oscar Wilde" and *The Times* Book Club. Whatever Wilde was, there cannot be a doubt what the noble Douglas is. An unspeakable bounder—a creature whose conscience is dead and whose heart has not been born. He thought he could get not only cash but reputation by raking over the swine-beds and the swill-tubs which rejoiced the soul and fed the genius of his dead friend. Be the part of Lord Alfred in that infamy what it might—what it was or what it was not, the old world had all but forgotten it. The new world knew it only as an unsavoury whisper floating across the years, and until he put the cap of ignominy on his head it was hardly known at all how, when Wilde left prison, with nothing in this world, or the next, to hope for except the salving of his soul, the noble Douglas became a fungus and a parasite on him in his Florentine retreat. There is worthlessness, there is rapacity, and there is degeneracy. Lord Alfred Douglas is a perfect compound of them all.

A Prattling Prince.

Prince Lichnowsky, the new German Ambassador, is doing his level best to ingratiate himself with the British public. His gastronomic powers appear to be of a high order. He is an indefatigable diner-out, and his post-prandial orations overflow with the milk of human kindness. Apparently the injunction, "Talk peace!" has been writ large on his official instructions. The pacific efforts of his Imperial Master and the general benevolence of the German Government are his constant themes. There are, doubtless, a few among his hearers who are gulled by this sort of gush, which is of course an incident of Germany's recent change of front in the field of European diplomacy. Meanwhile, we find Mr. Israel Zangwill contributing two-and-a-half columns of sentimental slush to the *Daily Chronicle*, in the course of which he remarks: "The love of law must give place to the law of love. If Germany desires of our territory she must have it." Here is a Briton after Prince Lichnowsky's own heart! Suppose, by the way, Germany "desired" Zion?

Soaring Samuel.

We recently congratulated Mr. Herbert Samuel on the exhibition of some passing interest in the affairs of the Post Office. It was not to be expected that such humdrum matter should long monopolise the attention of so ambitious a politician, and we are therefore not surprised to learn that the right honourable gentleman is already sighing for "new worlds to conquer." We are assured that he will shortly address a select coterie of Radical politicians at the Eighty Club, when he is expected to unfold the Government plan for the reform of the Second Chamber. Not that anything is likely to be done in the matter. We presume that it comes within the purview of the Postmaster-General on the ground that it is a "dead letter." Meanwhile, the telephone system is in chaos and the Empire is without any proper scheme of wireless communication.

Emigrants, Beware!

Here is a letter from one of our readers—which, as the lawyers say, speaks for itself:—

> I wish to bring to your notice the following:—I was coming home this evening from Twickenham after the football match and was terribly surprised and upset at seeing a lot of emigrants huddled together on Waterloo. I was told by the Inspector that they were emigrants sent back all the way from South America, where the authorities would not let them land. What about the authorities to let them go?

£50 for a "Mauve" Coupon. Particulars on page 643.

Changing His Mind.

A young girl was recently convicted by Mr. Paul Taylor of stealing handbags from women in church. It appeared that her history had been a most unfortunate one, and that her downfall was largely due to her association with a number of worthless but well-to-do men who were doubtless attracted by her good looks. In sentencing the unhappy girl, Mr. Taylor remarked that he "thought she deserved hard labour," but in view of the appeal of her brother and a woman missionary he would send her for trial to be dealt with under the Borstal system." The Borstal system is one specially devised for the treatment of youthful offenders. In many cases it has achieved excellent results in the reclamation of young prisoners who might otherwise have been irrevocably launched upon a career of crime. Mr. Paul Taylor's statement must, therefore, mean that had he acted according to his own lights he would have sent this foolish girl to an ordinary prison to herd with hardened criminals, but that, in deference to the views of her brother and of a police-court missionary, he changed his mind and determined to give the culprit a chance of reform. We would remind Mr. Taylor that in so doing he was merely effectuating the intentions of the legislature, and we regret that it should have been necessary for two sympathetic onlookers to recall him to a sense of his duty.

Magisterial Muddles.

The time of the Middlesex Sessions Court appears to be largely occupied in revising the ill-considered decision of magistrates in the Courts below. A Twickenham man recently appealed, with success, against a sentence of two months' imprisonment for alleged improper conduct towards a little girl. We should have thought that in a case of this nature the magistrates would have exercised the utmost caution. The Sessions Bench, however, admitted the appeal and quashed the conviction with costs. The chief witness for the police was a young woman who was supposed to have witnessed the improper behaviour, and who was called in to identify the defendant at the police station. In the course of the appeal she declared that she was asked "to identify the man before several others, and she touched another man, not accused at first, but then thought she had made a mistake and identified appellant." Did the police mention this fact to the magistrates who convicted? If not, why not?

A Parson's Insurance Story.

The parson of St. Paul's, Bermondsey, the Rev. C. H. Bowden, says a certain parishioner of his was employed in some engineering works when the Insurance Act came into force, and subsequently paid in six weeks' contributions. The next six weeks he spent in prison, having been charged by his employers with stealing; "yet he is now drawing out-of-work pay, being unable to find work in consequence of his misconduct. Furthermore, he has claimed free meals for his children at the schools, under the Provision of Meals Act, and his claim is allowed." This proves that some people, at any rate, have cause to be grateful for the Act.

Beer, Glorious Beer!

The post of "ale-taster" to the Manorial Court Leet of Ashton-under-Lyne has become vacant by the death of the holder of the office. We understand that it is not proposed to advertise the vacancy, and aspirants will therefore do well to forward their credentials without loss of time. We suggest that in these democratic days it would be far better if the appointment were put up for public competition. We know several likely candidates. There should be a small entrance fee as a slight check upon frivolous attempts, and policemen should be disqualified.

Deserves a Horsewhipping.

We are in hearty agreement with the Birmingham Coroner that John Henry Price, the Meriden postman, deserves a horsewhipping. The father of Mary Williams met her out with Price on a Sunday night. She did not arrive home, and when the father called on Price, he denied that he had seen the girl at all. He persisted in this lying denial to the father and the police inspector until the Tuesday—then he admitted that he went with the girl through the fields; that she "walked along about 30 yards" while he stood looking at some broken eggs in the basket on his bicycle; that on looking up he saw her standing on the rails by the side of the pool; that he saw her jump into the water as he shouted "What are you doing?"; that he did not attempt to save her "because the water was too deep at the side," and that "he then went to the Stonebridge Hotel, but did not say anything about the affair because he was afraid." The verdict of "Found drowned," with a censure for a rider, was amply justified. There is no creature on the earth more contemptible than a liar and a coward.

The Quick and the Dead.

Startling allegations have been made by two surgeons, who were formerly upon the staff, against the management of the York County Hospital. They allege that a patient, who had for some time been in a state of coma, was taken from his bed and deposited alive in the Hospital mortuary. In view of the terrible seriousness of this suggestion, the Hospital authorities have asked Sir Cooper Perry, M.D., of Guy's Hospital, to conduct an enquiry into the facts, and we therefore forbear from further comment. We may, however, be permitted to suggest that the Hospital authorities would have done better to select some person outside the medical profession. Sir Cooper Perry is a surgeon of high repute, and for aught we know may be well qualified for the work of judicial investigation; but the public would have greater confidence in a non-medical investigator, who would be free from any suspicion of professional bias. Doctors are wont to hang together—for a reason which has frequently been mentioned.

A Sensible Judge.

The Courts have decided against the Earl of Dysart, who recently sought to establish a monopoly of ferrying passengers across the Thames at Twickenham. The Earl's somewhat startling claim was based upon prescriptive right, traceable to some ancient charter, and, judging from the length and prolixity of counsel's speeches, there was a good deal to be said for it from the legal point of view. For the sake of the public, however, we are glad that his lordship's claim has been disallowed. A single ferry is obviously a most inadequate provision for the needs of visitors to this popular riverside resort, and it would have been a calamity if the dead hand of legal pedantry had been allowed to thwart legitimate enterprise and to deprive the public of reasonable and much-needed facilities. The summing up of Mr. Justice Warrington showed an adequate appreciation of the practical aspects of the question, and a proper contempt for the dry-as-dust quibbles beloved of the Chancery Bar.

"Thou Shalt Not Steal"?

There is a Methodist preacher at Winsford, in Cheshire, by name J. M. Stubbs, who, forgetting one of the Commandments, has been summoned for having unlawfully laid a gaspipe without the consent, etc. In other words, our pious brother tapped the service pipe and stole the gas. "It is a very serious case," said the Chairman of Magistrates, "and you must be very careful in future." For the present, however, he let him off for ten shillings costs, and as he is planned to preach on the second Sunday in May, we are wondering what his text will be.

£500 again Offered this week for the Best "Bullet."

Making the Punishment Fit the Pocket.

To be drunk while in charge of a motor car is an offence for which it is hard to find any excuse, and we are disposed to favour the award of smart punishment in such cases. At the West London Police Court a taxi-cab driver, named Saunders, was recently sentenced to a month's hard labour for this offence. This penalty involves the suspension of the man's licence for a period of two years, during which he will have ample leisure to repent his mad folly. But what are we to say of the action of the London Sessions Bench in the case of Thomas Howard Farmiloe, which recently came before them on appeal from the Bow Street Police Court, where Mr. Curtis Bennett had sentenced the defendant to a month's hard labour for a similar offence? The Sessions Bench affirmed the conviction and confined themselves to the question of punishment. After hearing Farmiloe's counsel, who made much of the totally irrelevant fact that his client "completed his education at Cambridge, after being at Harrow," the Chairman of the Bench stated that "they did not wish to blight the young man's career," and Mr. Curtis Bennett's very proper sentence was accordingly commuted for a fine of forty shillings, which to a man in Farmiloe's position is, of course, no punishment at all. A drunken joy-ride by a 'varsity swell is, we suppose, a "lively joke," but with a mere taxi-man at the wheel it becomes a "deadly sin."

Pretty Pictures for Emigrants.

Nineteen or twenty British emigrants have signed their names to a letter of complaint addressed to us concerning their treatment as third-class passengers on the S.S. *Ionian* (owners, Allan Brothers). The letter is under date 12th March, and written on board in the Atlantic. They tell us that the Company advertise that British passengers will not be quartered with foreigners, but that 200 Polish Jews, "more or less dirty," are allowed to mix freely with them and to use, or rather misuse, the same lavatories. "The sanitary arrangements are very bad," there being only two lavatories, one quite removed from the sleeping quarters and quite inaccessible under bad weather conditions. "There are several hundred people for this one lavatory, and at times the crowd waiting is like the queue outside a theatre. The stench is at times unbearable." Apparently for comparison of the actual and the false, the writers enclose a pretty coloured picture, issued with an advertising pamphlet, of a third-class four-berth room on the *Corsican*; and the snowy sheets and golden bedsteads and mahogany furniture and polished floor look pretty enough for a week-end cottage in Arcadia. "This is the kind of thing that induced us to sail on this boat," is written on the picture. Life is full of disillusion.

D——n!

The Post Office telephone girls have recently been in congress. Like most Government officials, they have a grievance, and this time it is the impoliteness of subscribers which has aroused their ire. A resolution was submitted "calling upon the Postmaster-General, in view of the additional exasperation and greater tendency to nervous breakdown caused by abusive subscribers on the telephone, to protect operators by imposing drastic penalties against proved offenders." We can readily believe that it is highly irritating to be sworn at through the 'phone, especially when gentle nurture and official regulations alike forbid the "retort discourteous," but we are bound to think the young ladies would have shown greater discernment if they had called upon the Postmaster-General to introduce such reforms as would remove temptation from harassed subscribers. The average man does not swear at a lady, except under extreme provocation.

"Not at Home."

Here is another tragedy of the Insurance Act. The wife of a Hull man was "taken bad" at about 11.30 at night. The husband called up a Dr. Barker, who replied that he could not attend. Some time later the husband implored the doctor to come; again he refused—this time explaining that he was "worn out." At 3.45 in the morning the man called on the doctor again, said his wife was in a dangerous condition, that he had seen the police, and that he would "have" to come. Possibly mention of the police stimulated the humane energies of Dr. Barker, for he went—and on arrival found the woman was dead. An inquest followed; Dr. Barker was a witness, and among other things he told the jury that "if a doctor had attended her early there was a probability that she would not have died." That is the pitiful tragedy of the thing. We wish to be as fair as the facts will allow. The man was poor; he was not on Dr. Barker's panel; he should have made arrangements for medical attendance on his wife several months previously; and Dr. Barker was "worn out." The question still remains, supposing the man who called on him had been well-to-do instead of poor, what would Dr. Barker have done then? Would he still have required three summonses before he would have attended the woman, literally dying inch by inch for want of the merciful human service which he could have given? Dr. Barker knows best.

Why?

The Harrison liner *Workman* recently ran aground in somewhat mysterious circumstances. The usual Board of Trade Inquiry was held, and the investigators have now issued their Report. They find that the accident was entirely due to the negligence of the Master of the vessel, who apparently failed to take proper soundings, and they severely censure him. "Severe censure" from a Board of Trade Court frequently involves the suspension of the Master's certificate, but in this case no such penalty is to be imposed. "Having regard to the unabated confidence of the owners, and believing he was misled by peculiar atmospheric conditions," the Court refrains from interfering in any way with the Master's certificate. This is surely a most peculiar finding. If the atmospheric conditions were such as might mislead any ordinarily careful seaman, then it is unfair and harsh to censure the Master at all. If, on the other hand, the condition of the atmosphere was but a subsidiary factor in the affair, and if, as is stated, the accident was entirely due to the navigator's negligence, it is hard to see how the shipowners can retain confidence in the man. Even if they do, we are certainly unable to accept the fact as a reason for leniency towards a man whose blundering has endangered many lives.

Women's Rights—Old Style.

"A husband and wife cannot conspire," says Mr. Justice Lush. This is obviously not a fact, but it is doubtless very good law. It is a striking illustration of the large measure of legal immunity which English jurisprudence accords to women. A woman who in fact conspires with her husband is presumed to act at his dictation, and is therefore deemed innocent of criminal intent. Similarly, a woman who commits a felony in the presence of her husband is entitled to acquittal, the assumption being that she acted under duress, and was therefore not responsible for her crime. A husband is still liable to pay damages for the wrongful acts of his wife, so that a malicious or violent woman may commit slander or assault with complete immunity from civil process. "Advanced" women should weigh these facts before preferring their favourite demand for "equality before the law."

20 Fancywork Transfers Given Away. See "Mary Bull"—Out on Friday.

A Judicial Scandal.

The indignant reversal by the Divisional Court of a recent judgment of Mr. Muir Mackenzie, the Official Referee, on certain questions of account which had been referred to him, directs attention to one of the most glaring anomalies of our legal system. We have a set of men called Official Referees, whose function it is to decide specific questions of account in dispute between litigants, and thus save the time of a Judge and Jury in going into such details. The work is essentiall of an accountancy description, no questions of law being involved—*and yet every one of the Referees is a barrister.* What is the Institute of Chartered Accountants doing?

The "Spotter" Case.

We are far from satisfied with the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in this case. Any conceivable doubt upon the sufficiency of the evidence as to the handwriting of the postcards received since the conviction of Brownhill is surely more than counterbalanced by all the other circumstances of the case. *Mr. Justice Ridley was the presiding Judge in December last, when leave to appeal was refused. He presided at the appeal!*

"Who Murdered the Girl Scout?"

We understand that steps are about to be taken, through the Home Office, to re-open the inquest on little Winnie Baker, the Girl Scout who was brutally murdered some months ago at Woking. Let us hope that, should this course be adopted, it will be more profitable of good results than was the case at Hove.

A "Simple Solution."

From a correspondent: "The so-called Great Powers decided that Montenegro must not have Scutari. They all sent war ships to enforce their decision. Montenegro then, of course, took Scutari. The Powers were annoyed because Scutari had been promised to the unborn State of Albania. Here is the simple, commonsense solution: Insist on Scutari belonging to Albania and threaten to use fire and sword to enforce that decision. But no Albanian Sovereign has yet been appointed. So King Nicholas of Montenegro shall be appointed King of Albania on condition that Scutari is Albanian and not Montenegrin."

£1,000 REWARD.

It having come to our knowledge *that certain persons have been maliciously circulating statements with a view to discrediting the bona fides of our "Bullets" Competitions, we hereby offer a reward of* **One Thousand Pounds** *to any person who can prove that any Prize-winner—large or small—in any of such competitions has been in any way, directly or indirectly, nominated or in any way favoured by the Editor, Manager, or responsible officers of the Company owning this journal; or that any steps are taken before, during or after the examination of the coupons by the judges to influence their decision; or that every coupon is not read and considered; or that any coupon is added to, or extracted from, those sent in by the date of closing. Any person circulating the said slanders will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law.*

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating in a testimonial: "*I am personally so well satisfied that* I SHALL IN FUTURE FEED WITH YOUR POULTRY MIXTURE,"

MR. THOMAS A. FREEMAN
(Harefrights' Poultry Farm, Sussex)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in "The Woman Teacher's World" that their tooth powder is "PUT UP IN SPECIAL BOXES WHICH CANNOT BE OPENED,"

THE ICILMA COMPANY, LIMITED,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "*Motor-flaps . . . made in* TWO *shapes,* CIRCULAR *and* ROUND,"

MESSRS. JOHN HALL AND SONS, LTD.,
(173, St. Pancras Road, London),
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "*In the Batthyany Handicap the* WINNER *commenced slowly, and* WAS NOT IN THE FIRST NINE,"

THE EVENING STANDARD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "*The Hendon Urban Council has received sanction for a loan of* £10,663 *for the purpose of erecting* 50 *houses for the working* ASSES *in the ward of Childs-hill,*"

THE EVENING NEWS AND SOUTHERN MAIL (Portsmouth)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "West Herts and Watford Observer" that their tailoring service "brings the fashionable man (whom we are proud to serve) back to ash (like Oliver CROMWELL) *for more,*"

MESSRS. ASHWELL AND SONS
(Watford Market Place)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "4½ *tons of coal and* 35 *tons of water are consumed by the* 3,038 *engines* BUILT AT CREWE EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY,

THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "*A work of Wolf's was being tried for the first time by a* WORLD-FAMOUS *orchestra under a* STILL MORE FAMOUS *conductor,*"

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing a photograph purporting to illustrate "the novel plan" adopted at the St. Pancras (College Street) L.C.C. Schools for "robbing geography of its terrors," and stating that the picture is that of "Charles Theobald finishing a map of IRELAND "—*the country shown being* SCOTLAND.

THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising under the heading "Situations Wanted":
"*As Traveller, Agent, Clerk, or any post of* TRUST *or* OTHERWISE,"

"P.X. (*EXPRESS* OFFICE, WINDSOR)"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked* "BISCUIT," *and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

Don't Fail to Enter Our Cricket Competition. Fortunes Waiting. See page 643.

SHREWSBURY—AND AFTER?

WAIT—TILL THE AUTUMN—AND SEE.

"We confess that we are not sufficiently acquainted with local conditions at Shrewsbury to attempt to extract with any certainty the true moral of yesterday's amazing election."—WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.

"The surprise of yesterday's polling was the large vote recorded for Mr. Morris, who stood as the 'Business Government' candidate."—DAILY MAIL.

"The Shrewsbury election is a singular comment on political conditions. . . . A propaganda which may, without any invidious implication, be described as 'non-descript,' can make as telling an appeal to the electors as that of one of the regular and organised parties. It is a phenomenon that deserves reflection from orthodox politicians upon both sides."—PALL MALL GAZETTE.

Such are the views of those of our leading journals as had the courage and the honesty to look the result of the Shrewsbury election squarely in the face. Of the hidebound and fraudulent "organs of public opinion" which, ignoring the remarkable lesson of the contest, gloated over the fact that in this, our second trial of strength, the richest and best organised Party in the land had, *with the admitted help of its opponents*, succeeded in keeping the seat, we prefer to say nothing more than that their attitude is a disgrace to British journalism and an insult to British intelligence. Truth to tell, a wonderful thing has happened. Following East Bristol, another sentence has been added to the Writing on the Wall—which is telling the Party Politicians to pack up their traps; that the Man-in-the-Street is done with them; that he sees through the trick; that he is tired of being used as a pawn in the game of Party Chess; that he cries "A plague on both your Houses!" and demands that in future the affairs of the nation shall be managed upon Commonsense Business Principles.

THE PLAIN FACTS.

Let us look at the plain, outstanding facts of the case. Three days before the poll, on learning that the Unionist candidate was to be given a walk-over, we decided to nominate a non-Party advocate of a Business Government. Of course we were laughed at; in the words of a leading London daily, "Nobody treated the thing seriously." But we know our strength, and the period of ridicule quickly gave way to one of alarm—with the result that we had the unique spectacle of the Liberal leaders urging their men either to abstain or to vote for the Tory. That many of them adopted the latter course is clear from the following extract from the speech of the new Member in returning thanks for his election. "I have," he said, "to thank many of my Nonconformist and Liberal friends, to whose support my success is partly due." And yet, with this adventitious assistance, and on an increased register, the Unionist candidate polled less than was the case at the previous election—*and the Business Government candidate polled, within a hundred, as many as did the Liberal on that occasion.* What is the obvious inference? All the Liberals who did not either abstain, or vote for the Tory, must have discarded Party and supported our man. That, however, would still leave a lot to account for the big total of nearly 1,800 votes—out of a gross register of 5,000, and with 1,000 abstentions. So we are compelled to assume that all the Unionists who forsook their Party candidate and many electors who had not voted at the previous election also rallied round our flag! Well may the *Westminster Gazette* say it was "an amazing election," and well may the *Pall Mall* say "It is a phenomenon that deserves reflection from orthodox politicians upon both sides"!

The truth is that, so deeply rooted is the fanaticism of Party that both its leaders and its press have been blind to the signs of the time. Just as they deliberately ignore the wonderful demonstrations held from week to week under the auspices of the John Bull League, in all parts of the country, so they affected to treat with indifference our previous incursion in the electoral field. Let us recall East Bristol, where—treated with contempt by the Cabinet Minister seeking re-election upon his "promotion"—our man scored 3,000 votes and reduced the Ministerial majority by two thousand. In that case, it will be observed, we fought a Liberal; at Shrewsbury we fought a Conservative. Thus, the official explanation of our East Bristol figures—*i.e.*, that the John Bull League is a Tory organisation in disguise—goes by the board. To us all Parties are alike. To Hades with all of them! we say. Still, the lesson of our first trial of strength was ignored—hence the surprise of both the Liberal and Conservative press at our latest achievement.

OUR OWN PROPHECY FULFILLED.

That we had accurately gauged the situation will be gathered from the following paragraph, which appeared in our last issue:—

> After East Bristol, Shrewsbury. It having been "officially decided not to contest the seat"—*vide* the Liberal Caucus—the John Bull League pops up with a Business Government candidate. We go to press a day before the poll, and we are too old a bird to venture upon prophecy—unless we know!—but we do not think we shall be disgraced. We do not expect to win, but, as in the case of East Bristol, we do expect to give the Party wire-pullers a bit of a scare. And we haven't really begun yet!

As a matter of fact, we did rather better than we expected; and if we had had a few more days—well, Mr. George Butler Lloyd wouldn't now be M.P. for Shrewsbury!

THE FUTURE.

And what of the future? It may be taken that we have come to stay—and our cartoonist happily hits off our present position in the political world. We have become "a confounded nuisance"—and whenever the Party wire-pullers contemplate a "compact," they will now have to reckon with the possibility of our eleventh-hour intervention. There was a time when it was thought that the so-called Labour Party would fill this *rôle*; but it has long ceased to count. With its "leader" disporting himself in India as a Royal Commissioner, and shooting tigers! and most of its other members either lay preachers, temperance lecturers, or female suffragists, it has become a docile wing of the Liberal Caucus, and nobody pays the least regard to its doings. We are, therefore, left as the only independent force in modern politics. And we shall be heard of. A fortuitous concourse of circumstances—mainly personal to ourselves—has retarded our progress. But we are gradually overcoming them, and our recent triumphal march through nearly all the large cities and towns of the kingdom has been but the prelude to a campaign which, after a little rest—during which we shall be endeavouring to act upon the principle that Business begins at home—will be inaugurated on a scale which will spread dismay in the Whips' rooms, and will bring all their hitherto fairly exact calculations well within the purview of 4 Geo. IV.—otherwise known as the Lottery Act. Our plans will not be unfolded till the autumn, when they will be found quite complete. Meanwhile, we shall for once adopt a Party battle cry and say—*Wait and See!*

AN INSOLENT OFFICIAL.

OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOUR OF A CHIEF OF POLICE.

Manchester seems to be cursed with a peculiarly wrong-headed set of police officials, and it would appear that the recent stupid action of the Watch Committee in condoning the high-handed proceedings of two of their number has freed them from all restraint. The unfortunate experience of Mr. S. W. Leach, of Doncaster, is of a kind happily rare, and we are not surprised that he is incensed at the treatment he has received.

He recently visited Manchester to purchase a motor car. The car was duly registered and Mr. Leach was a licensed driver. There was no number on the vehicle, and the new owner surmounted the difficulty in what we should have regarded as an eminently reasonable way. He borrowed the number of the firm from whom he had bought the car, chalked it in large letters on a board, and proceeded on his homeward way.

This, however, was not good enough for the Manchester Police. They promptly pounced upon him with the intimation that he would in due course be summoned.

FALSE "FACTS," BAD LAW.

A few days later he received two summonses. The first charged him with using an unregistered car, which was wrong in fact; the second with "unlawfully and fraudulently" using a false number, which, as it subsequently transpired, was bad in law. Both summonses were returnable at the Manchester Police Court on the Thursday before Good Friday—a most unfortunate day for Mr. Leach, the nature of whose businees causes him to be up to his eyes in work at holiday times. He did the obvious, and we should have thought the correct, thing. He addressed a courteous, explanatory letter to the Chief Constable of Manchester, urging him to communicate to the Court the reason for his inability to appear. The Chief Constable acknowledged this letter by return of post, promising to read it in Court when the defendant's name was called. So far all went merrily as a marriage bell.

On April 2nd Mr. Leach was dining in the Danum Club at Doncaster. He was told that two gentlemen awaited him in the vestibule below. Descending, he was met by two detectives from Manchester with a warrant for his arrest—for failing to attend at the Police Court, *and sending no excuse*. The Chief Constable had broken his promise. The letter of explanation had never been read.

Mr. Leach was escorted to the Doncaster Police Station with a detective on either side. After the usual catechism he was ordered to turn out his pockets—and his knife was taken from him, lest he should cheat the law by suicide! He was then consigned to a prison cell for the night. His friends, having learned of his unhappy plight, were insistent in their offers of bail. One gentleman tendered as much as £5,000. But the police were adamant. Mr. Leach spent the night mid the squalid and comfortless surroundings of a criminal lock-up.

A PRESUMPTUOUS PEACOCK.

At 7.35 next morning he was bade bestir himself to catch the early train for Manchester. Arrived there, he was taken to the City Police Court and charged before six magistrates. Without hesitation the Bench dismissed the case. In their view he had committed no offence, not even a technical breach of the law. After a night in the police station and the refusal of heavy bail, after the railway journey in custody and the insolent treatment of the Doncaster Police, the charge was summarily dismissed as too trivial for serious consideration.

The hardship and indignity which this gentleman suffered were directly due to the stupid blunder of the Chief Constable. This officer has now had the effrontery to address to him a "Certificate of Character" from which we cull the following extract:—

> Owing to some misunderstanding Mr. Leach did not appear at the City Police Court. I wish to say in connection with his arrest there is no reflection whatever on Mr. Leach's personal character, as the offences charged against him were not of a criminal nature and do not affect the reputation or good character he has hitherto borne.
>
> R. PEACOCK,
> *Chief Constable.*

Was ever the insolence of office more graphically portrayed?

PIFFLING PUZZLES.

DUD DIAMONDS FOR DIDDLED DULLARDS.

The latest little gang to embark on the remunerative business of fool-catching is the "South Western Manufacturing Company," of 4, Featherstone Buildings, Holborn. This little troupe have no new tricks—theirs is the old game of printing a childishly simple puzzle and offering cash prizes (in this case £100), coupled with the statement that to qualify for them "there is one easy condition which need cost nothing, and about which we will write you when we receive your solution." There is then sent a printed letter (got up to imitate typewriting), starting with the cheering words—"*Re* your prize," and informing the simple solutionist that he is "a winner in the distribution of the grand cash, watches, gramophones and other prizes." Following comes the familiar bunkum—in the old, old phraseology so engraven upon our minds by having, month after month, and year after year, to read the complaints of thousands who have been defrauded in times past by persons sending out this identical form—"We send you this immediate intimation so that you may know you are successful, and in order also that you may qualify at once in accordance with the simple and easy condition referred to by us in our advertisement." The "easy condition" is that the "mug" must obtain a purchaser at 2s. 6d. for a "beautiful 'Corona' ring," or a fountain pen at 3s. 6d. It is very kindly stated that the sender of the money will be permitted to keep these presents himself—as a matter of fact that is the course usually, perforce, adopted, as the trashy gifts which have hitherto been sent to the persons beguiled by such blarney have obviously been impossible to sell; the other alternative is, of course, that the articles should be thrown away. Some very imposing blatherskite is used in describing the "wonderful brilliant 'Corona' rings." "These magnificent stones," it is calmly asserted, "represent the result of many years' scientific research in electricity, chemistry and other kindred lines of study. At last the secret of simulating perfect diamonds and rubies has been discovered. It is a well-known fact that for ages chemists have undertaken to effect artificial carbonisation thereby producing a genuine diamond or ruby in a brief space of time, in a laboratory, to take the place of the same product which has been the result of centuries of slow formation in the bowels of the earth. That perfect artificial stones should now be a commercial reality, in view of the wonderful advancement of science, is no more remarkable than the wireless Marconi telegraphy, which only a few years ago was considered an impossibility." We will spare our readers more of this rhapsody, but there is much in the same strain.

The usual *dénouement* to the trick is the calm statement that so many thousands of people have solved the puzzle that the proportion of the prize money is but a copper or so—generally nothing is sent, on the score that the postage would more than exhaust the amount! We certainly see nothing in the first act of the little extravaganza now under notice to anticipate other than the usual conclusion.

DUNN'S DISCLAIMER.

THE FIT FAKIR'S FICTION FOILED.

We have received a letter from Mr. C. H. Dunn, the present tenant of Grassmere House, Winsford, Cheshire, whose name and address, it will be remembered, Whitby used in his frantic efforts to foist upon the public, as a remedy for fits, some concoction he calls Korinium Bromide, under the pretence that he is a philanthropic clergyman, working without pay in the hope of alleviating human suffering. As the deluded persons who replied to the advertisement have been led to believe that Mr. Dunn is the clergyman referred to, that gentleman is naturally indignant at Whitby's liberty in signing his name to mendacious circular letters, and utilising his private address for the purpose of the gross deception. He assures us emphatically that he has nothing whatever to do with Whitbys in any shape or form, nor have they authority to use his name in connection with the exploiting of the fit-fake. He tells us he was totally ignorant of what was being done until he saw the fact mentioned in this journal.

"Bullets" is acknowledged THE BEST JUDGED of All Competitions.

A STRANGE SCHOOL SCANDAL.

DOCTORS DISAGREE—ENTER N.S.P.C.C.

When compulsory and free education became the law of the land it was never intended that the "boon" should be turned into the curse it sometimes is to-day. Here is a typical case, hitherto unreported.

In February last a Lambeth man was summoned by the L.C.C. for not sending his child to school. He appeared at the Westminster Police Court and stated his defence—namely, that the girl, aged twelve years, was not fit to attend school on account of illness. Against this the Medical Officer of the L.C.C. said she was quite able to be present. Result: the father lost a day's work and was fined the sum of 3s. On March 13th he had to appear again on a similar charge. On this occasion he was fined 10s. or seven days' imprisonment, being given a week in which to find the money. Knowing that if he was compelled to surrender and allow the L.C.C. to administer to the poor child a daily dose of mental pabulum, the result would be the infliction upon her of hourly torture, he reported the case to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. They called in two doctors to examine her, and their reports are illuminating:—

London Medical Mission (Lambeth Branch).
March 19th, 1913.

This is to certify that I have known the girl, Blanche Castle, 13 years of age, for the last three years, and have attended her for various abscess formations on the head and under the jaw. She has also been under operation in the Westminster Hospital for abscess in the right leg and long drainage process. She is a weakling and has been from birth, and has been to my knowledge a considerable sufferer, who is mentally weak and quite unfit for any ordinary school, and just the case for a cripple school. She has little power in her lower limbs and tumbles about at times very badly.

R. FOSTER OWEN.

Mrs. Anstruthers' School Clinic.
April 1st, 1913.

This is to certify that Blanche Castle attended here for some weeks from September 12th, 1912, for carbuncle of the head and had an operation. She also had a discharging sinus of the jaw which needed hospital treatment. I found the child very defective both mentally and physically, and considered her quite unfit for an ordinary school. I wrote to the Care Committee to try to get her sent to some special institution, where she could be properly trained, and her physical defects treated, but achieved no result. She is quite undisciplined and is certainly a case requiring a great deal of special treatment.

MARY A. BLAIR, M.D., B.S.Lond.

Much to the credit of the N.S.P.C.C., their Inspector attended Court and presented these reports to the magistrate, whereupon—what? The wicked defendant's fine was reduced to 1s.! Was there ever such a clear case of miscarriage of justice? The man had lost five days' work by attendance at Court in order to protect his offspring from cruelty—and he is fined. Well might he exclaim:

Multiplication is vexation,
Division is as bad,
The L.C.C. they puzzle me
And *somebody* must be mad!

Hitherto we were given to understand that the N.S.P.C.C. were a prosecuting body, but it appears that they stand for the protection of parents also.

FLOREAT FLORINS!

SHILLING SOPS FOR SUNDERLAND SOLDIERS.

Things must be pretty bad with the Territorial force in Sunderland. The following notice has been sent out on postcards:—

7TH BATTALION DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.

Your period of engagement expires this year, and as the Commanding Officer is desirous of retaining as many of the old hands as possible, it has been decided to give a bonus of 4s. to each man who re-engages for at least two years, providing he does so before the end of April, 1913. The 4s. will be paid at the time of re-engagement.

R. B. BERGNE,
Captain and Adjutant,
7th Batn. Durham Light Infantry.

The next battle-cry of our troops is apparently to be "Floreat florins!"

"EXPERT" RENT COLLECTING.

MONSTROUS METHODS OF A BRIGHTON BULLY.

Mr. J. Leonard Neale, of 2, Granville Place, Brighton, is a prince of rent collectors. We have always known that rent-collecting was a fine art. In Mr. Neale's capable hands it has become an exact science. He will tell you to the nearest penny the total of rents collected by him last year—£16,705 0s. 5d.! Mark that fivepence! It is the stamp of the man's meticulous honesty and the crowning triumph of his "system." For system there must be. Results like these are not achieved by chance.

We are on the track of that system. Sinister rumours have reached us which we have been at pains to verify. We shall not find the particulars of Mr. Neale's scientific methods in the delicate cream-laid circular which he issues to prospective clients, and in which he proudly describes himself as an "expert" rent collector. We must go to a mean street in Brighton, where a labourer rents two rooms in a cottage at four shillings a week. His rent is paid to date. His immediate landlord, the tenant of the house, has gone, leaving him in possession against his will. He would go too, but for one fact. In a tiny bedroom his wife lies dangerously ill. She was recently confined and in bed with her is an ailing babe. Added to the exhaustion of her confinement she has a painful tumour in her back and suffers agony as she lies there alone, while her husband works for her support. The head of her bed is near the window. She has fresh air in abundance, for there is no glass in the frames. She and her sick child are exposed to the full force of the weather. The front door of the cottage has also been taken down and carried away. Mr. J. Leonard Neale has been busy. He has a reputation for the speed with which he relets properties which are left untenanted. Hard on the woman and her child, certainly, but sentiment must not be allowed to interfere with business. Scientific methods frequently involve hardship. He is an "expert" rent collector. It is the "system" at work.

Our Special Commissioner has visited the scene and verified the facts for himself. We are not proceeding upon hearsay evidence, and we have not yet searched for further atrocities. Our representative was face to face with the unhappy victim of this brutal outrage. Her husband has offered to pay rent to Neale if only he may remain undisturbed till his wife has sufficiently rallied to be moved without peril. The offer has been contemptuously spurned. That is not the way five-figure rent totals are made. The unfortunate labourer erred in supposing that Mr. J. Leonard Neale was a man. He is an "expert" rent collector of the scientific type.

And so the poor woman and her sick child must lie on their lowly bed, chilled to the marrow by cold blasts of night air, that Mr. J. Leonard Neale may wax prosperous, content that women should perish while rents flow merrily in.

"PERKS" AND PLUMS.

GOLDEN FRUIT FOR FORTUNATE GUARDIAN.

We congratulate the Lincolnshire County Committee upon their generosity—with other people's money. The caretakership of Lincoln Castle has become vacant by the death of the former custodian, and judging from the following advertisement, we guess (as the Yankee would say) that there will be no difficulty in filling the post.

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE.

Lincoln Castle.—Appointment of caretaker. Remuneration £50 p.a., with a house, coal, and gas. 25 per cent. commission on the sale of Guide Books. Suit of blue serge clothes and a pair of boots each year. The produce of all the fruit trees in the ground, and the use of the vegetable garden at present cultivated, the Caretaker providing all requisite labour.

In the orchard there are close upon a hundred apple and fifty plum trees, with five prolific bearers of the luscious cherry. A practical fruit grower of our acquaintance tells us that the sale of fruit alone should bring in £100 per annum—so, altogether, the caretaker's job should be worth about £250 a year. What do the County Committee pay their other servants?

The Biggest Cricket Prize Offer made by any Periodical. See page 643.

QUEERING THE PITCH.

POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE "TOO CLEVER BY HALF."

We recently condemned the action of the Burton magistrates, who fined a Mr. W. F. Balmer for rebuking a brutal policeman. Our strictures have evoked a responsive echo in the town. A well-known solicitor assures us that Burton police methods are a by-word. We append a few more facts which have been brought to our notice.

On March 29th, a young man named Arthur Keast was convicted by the Burton Borough Bench of obtaining seven shillings by false pretences. Until quite recently, Keast lived at Hereford. During his residence there he held a part-time agency for Messrs. Kay and Co., a firm of universal providers at Worcester. On moving to Burton, he continued to push their business to the best of his ability. He took an order for seven shillings' worth of goods from a Mrs. Woodward. Mrs. Woodward paid him the money on the understanding that she would receive the goods from Worcester in due course.

Foolish Fraternalism.

Keast kept the money for a day or two in the hope that he might obtain further orders, and thus strengthen his position with his firm. In so doing he was doubtless acting irregularly, and with a want of discretion. Next day he learned that his sister was in dire distress owing to her husband's neglect. He was then foolish enough to part with the seven shillings belonging to his firm, believing, as he says, that the money would be returned by the time he was ready to forward it to Worcester.

We have no desire to whitewash Keast. The money was not his, and he had no right to deal with it. In extenuation of his conduct, it may, perhaps, be urged that he was distracted by his sister's sufferings, and erred through excess of brotherly feeling. Be this as it may, it is with the action of the police that we are primarily concerned, and our criticisms have no relation to the honesty or otherwise of Keast's proceedings.

The money was not repaid. Keast was seven shillings short on his account. He had no regular work in Burton and therefore repaired to Birmingham, where he quickly found employment, fully intending to repay Mrs. Woodward at the end of the first week. To prevent awkward inquiries, he had already intimated to the lady that her order could not be entertained, and that the money would be returned in due course.

Such belated precautions were fruitless. The Burton police were on the scent. Hearing this, Keast foolishly left Birmingham, and returned to his home at Hereford. Arrived there, he fell ill with influenza, and was in bed for a fortnight, attended by a doctor. At the end of this time, he was dragged from his bed by the Hereford police and conveyed to Burton to answer a criminal charge. *He was accused of having obtained seven shillings from Mrs. Woodward by false pretences.*

A Cunning Course.

False pretences, there were none. His crime, if there was a crime, was embezzlement. The Burton police, however, were far too wily to charge Keast with the offence which he had actually committed. They knew full well that Messrs. Kay would never prosecute any such trumpery charge, and that there were extenuating circumstances in the case which would almost certainly ensure the prisoner's acquittal. Their object, apparently, was to secure conviction at all costs, and to this end they determined to keep the matter in their own hands.

A manager from Kay's gave evidence in support of the charge of false pretences. Despite careful manipulation by the police, he was forced to admit that Keast had acted within the general scope of his authority and without fraud. The essential ingredients of the offence alleged against the prisoner Keast, were thus missing. Despite this, the magistrates were persuaded to convict, and a fine of £2 was imposed.

Obtaining money by fraud is a serious offence, apart altogether from the amount involved. The extenuating circumstances which would, to some extent, have explained and excused the embezzlement were irrelevant to the charge of false pretences. Rather than charge Keast honestly and allow him a fair chance of escape, the police preferred to charge him falsely, and thus render conviction certain!

HOKEY-POKEY.

BROKEN BY-LAW AND BRUTAL BENCH.

It is said that corporations have no souls, and it would seem that in all too many cases they are minus a conscience as well. In a recent issue we referred to an arbitrary edict of the Ramsgate Borough Council which has brought complete ruin upon a number of respectable hawkers, who, for many years past, have carried on a legitimate and useful business on the seafront. The new municipal order is being applied without sympathy or discrimination, and several instances of cruel hardship have been brought to our notice.

One old man, who for sixty-four years has sold buns on the seafront, has been deprived of his living at a blow. Infringements of the order, which even now is imperfectly understood, have been punished with severity. In one case a man who for twenty-six years had conducted a sweet-stuff stall on the front, with perfect propriety and without a single complaint, was remorselessly prosecuted, and although a poor man, scraping a bare livelihood, he was mulcted in penalties amounting to no less than £10 14s., with thirteen weeks' imprisonment as an alternative. The summons served upon this unhappy victim of magisterial ferocity is worthy of reproduction. We have rarely seen a choicer sample of English as she is spoke by police officers and others learned in the law. The culprit was summoned:—

> For that he unlawfully did hawk a certain article, commodity, or thing, to wit hokey-pokey, on a certain part of the seashore, to wit, the esplanade there, such part of the seashore not being part of the seashore by notice affixed in conspicuous position on the seashore set apart by the Corporation of the said Borough for the hawking of such article, commodity or thing.

Such, in the beauteous language of the law, was the heinous crime for which the Margate Bench thought thirteen weeks' imprisonment an appropriate penalty. The precious document was signed by a Justice of the Peace named Poole. We trust he is proud of the production, and of the magistrates' subsequent outrage upon justice and decency.

But for the kindness of a gentleman who came forward and paid the exorbitant fine, a respectable Ramsgate resident of irreproachable character would now be in durance vile for a trifling breach of a trumpery by-law which is itself an outrageous infringement of citizen rights.

CLERK TO THE UNIVERSE.

A LIVERPOOL POOH-BAH FILLS UP HIS SPARE TIME.

We congratulate Mr. Harcourt Clare on having the leisure to undertake the Clerkship of the Lancashire Insurance Committee at a salary of £500 a year. Having regard to the other numerous offices he holds, we should have thought the salary would have been too high, or the hours too long As the Committee did not advertise, and recommended him without competition to the post either on the merit of his birthmarks or because he does his hair so nicely, they are obviously of opinion that it is a little job which he can do in his spare time—on Saturday afternoons and before church on Sundays.

Personally, we do not easily perceive how he intends to earn the £500—without some of the other local authorities whom he serves becoming meanly desirous of cutting down the salary he earns from them. To particularise, he is already Clerk to the County Education Committee, Clerk to the Lancashire Asylums Board, Clerk to the Inebriates Act Board, Clerk to the Ribble Joint Committee, Clerk to the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, Clerk to the Whalley Asylum Committee, and last, but not least, Clerk of the Peace and Clerk to the County Council. However, if they are satisfied as representatives of the people—who have to find the salaries—that Providence intended Mr. Clare to have all the vacant Clerkships going in Lancashire, it is not for us to complain of them or of Providence. On the contrary, we assure him that we will try to find a few more jobs for him at £500 a year—some he can do while he is shaving, or having his morning tub, or getting his hair cut. In the meantime, let him roll the old chariots along; many a man has died through having too little to do.

3 Words may make you Independent for Life. See page 650.

SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BE ABOLISHED?

By An Old Boy.

Said the plaintiff in a recent *cause célèbre* : "I wouldn't send my sons to a public school." He was right. Unless public schools have altered very much since I was there, fifteen years ago, there are excellent reasons why they are unsuitable places for growing boys. I wouldn't trust a young gorilla at the school—the ancient and frightfully expensive school—to which I was sent.

It's an ugly, nasty, unpleasant subject, but sooner or later the truth will have to be faced that the herding together of boys between certain ages generates vice, as certainly and inevitably as the heaping together of refuse generates corruption. It isn't flattering to human nature to have to confess it—that is why our lords, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters, have been so long about confessing it; but there will come a day when there will be such an exposure of the present system as will kill it.

Till they get in their teens boys don't come to much harm at boarding-schools—at the worst they pick up a few foul words, the meaning of which they do not realise; nor, in spite of popular belief, is there any danger in sending an ordinary decent young man to a University. The members of those hallowed institutions are more numerous, more cliquey, and live far less in the public eye, than they did in their school-days. The naturally perverted—an insignificant minority—congregate in secret holes and corners, and do not form centres of corruption.

It is in the intermediate stage between the private school and the University that the evil is wrought. No boy ever did, or ever possibly could, spend a week at a public school without being a great deal more than aware of certain vices; he is for ever hearing hints and suggestions from his companions, and not infrequently suspicion points higher—I hasten to say that I never knew it to be anything more than suspicion, and boys are very suspicious. In case a boy is so preternaturally innocent that he does not understand the import of it all, there comes every now and again a blazing scandal to set him wondering. I am not suggesting that all boys at public schools fall victims to the evil influences around them. I honestly believe that something very like a majority do eventually grow out of it; they become engrossed in sport when they reach the University, and they forget. Most do, but some do not, and I shouldn't like to think that a boy of mine was among that number.

The fact is—I am speaking right out from what I have seen—the thing occurs in epidemics. It all depends on the elder boys; they can allow vice to flourish, or they can, to an extent, drive it under ground. There was a very well-known man whose untimely death we recently lamented; I was at school with him; he was in authority, and he put the fear of God into the worst characters in the little community. I remember him threatening two of these fellows that if certain things alleged against them by the general voice were proved to be true, he would give them such a public "whacking" as they would not forget. The charges were not proved, as it happened, and having a much stronger sense of justice than the generality of boys he let them off; they felt, as I happen to know, uncommonly thankful.

In any case, the utmost that the best of Sixth Form boys can do is to scotch the evil for a time; and I believe that when things in England are managed in a saner and braver fashion, it will be recognised that the way to deal with a thing of this kind is not to pretend that it doesn't exist, but to see why it exists. I believe that in the future it will be found better to keep boys at home during the dangerous years, or at best in small groups, so that bad influences cannot spread. If this is done, we shall have less cases of the kind that we have lately been disgusted by.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

We cannot receive applications for tickets, or act as agents in remitting money in connection with this Sweepstake. ALL communications must be addressed to Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

"BANKRUPT" BUNKUM.

A HELPFUL HINT FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

When father is at business, that is the time that the predatory "canvasser" gets on the prowl. A rascal has recently been working a number of streets in the early morning, leaving at each house a leaflet on which is printed:—

Notice! To be called for.
Great Clearance Sale
of
Bankrupt Stock
By Messrs. Hasney and Co.,
Moor Lane,
London, E.C.

Then follows a wonderfully cheap list of goods—all of which are stated to be warranted equal to sample, and cash on delivery only is asked. In due course, Mr. Canvasser will call and request the return of his leaflet, at the same time producing samples of his bath towels, etc. They are marvellous value—though worth at least 12s. a dozen, he says he is prepared to sell at 1s. 6d. Naturally the thrifty housewife gives a good order, and a promise is made that the goods will be delivered on the following day, when payment can be made for them. Having booked the order, one would suppose that the canvasser would be satisfied and retire. Not so, however, with "Hasney." He has only just started. The order he has entered is merely a blind. He never means to deliver, for the simple reason that he cannot afford to do so—the goods having been "sold" at considerably less than cost price. Before turning away from the door he usually exclaims: "Oh, I've got a very cheap dress length here. Only one I've left. Take it for 4s. 6d." The housewife may not want it, but Mr. Canvasser persists until, in the end, she gives way, and makes the purchase, consoling herself with the thought that if the dress length is not really worth the amount she has made a good bargain in the bath towels, etc. Alas! the morrow never comes. "Hasney" is off to some other district, to work his dress length trick. We need hardly say that there is no such firm as "Hasney and Co., of Moore Lane, London, E.C." The man we have described is a fraud.

DECANTING AT DELHI.

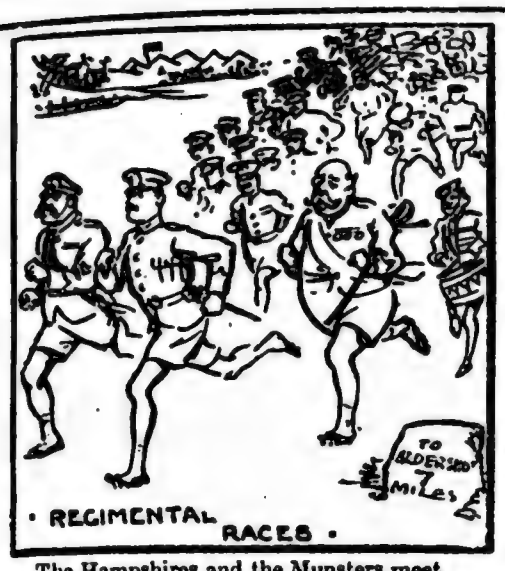
FIDDLE-FADDLING THE FUSILIERS.

Just now we are getting more than the usual crop of grumbles from soldiers in India. Of course, every Tommy who writes to us is breaking the King's Regulations, and could be severely punished. From this fact alone it is evident that if complaints were dealt with by Commanding Officers in a common-sense manner, men would not appeal to the Press. Here is the latest grievance—from the 3rd Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Delhi. It appears that the Regimental Institute is run by a contractor. As a rule—and this instance is no exception—canteens and recreation rooms are run by a contractor, who pays a stipulated sum per man to the Canteen Committee, which amount is supposed to be subsequently handed over to the different messing funds. The contractor at Delhi is one Mortiram, a native. For the privilege of supplying the Fusiliers with buns and ginger beer, he has agreed to pay the President of the Regimental Institute the sum of 3 rupees per man per month. As there are 900 men in the Battalion, Mortiram has to find the sum of 2,700 rupees every calendar month. Now what happens? To realise this amount, plus living for Mortiram, up go the prices of all the commodities sold and down goes the quality. The contractor has openly told the men, "I cannot afford to give you value for money when I have to pay 3 rupees per man to the President of the Institute." Of course he can't! It will be asked, where do the 2,700 rupees per month go to? If we are to believe our correspondents, it is frittered away by officers who have no right whatever to handle it. It must not be supposed that we charge them with converting the money to their own use. We do not. But, all the same, there is a considerable leakage of the liquid funds in this transference from one department to the other, so that in the end Tommy receives about half his proper "tot." The other goes into the pockets of what are known as the "commission birds."

A Cash Prize of £50 for a "Mauve" Coupon. See page 543.

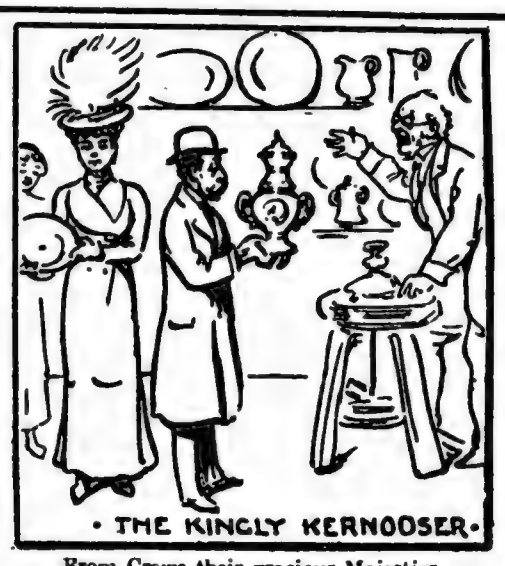
"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."



The Hampshires and the Munsters meet
In a cross country race;
The former have to own defeat
But don't admit disgrace.

King Nicholas the Powers defies,
Scutari having won,
Refuses to give up the prize—
Now we shall see some fun!



From Crewe their gracious Majesties
On Hanley make a call,
To see the famous Potteries,
The potters, pots, and all.

The Duke declares himself to be
Half a Canadian;
He's also let the Canucks see
He's every inch a man.

Dry diplomats at Washington
Learn to their great disgust
There is no wine to look upon,
And small chance of a "bust."

John Bull demands with angry frown
Where his airship may be
For which twelve thousand was paid down—
And Seely is at sea.

DANGER!

DOCKYARD TROUBLES HAZARD NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Things are going from bad to worse in the Government dockyards. The disaffection which has long been smouldering threatens to break into open flame. The case of the Portsmouth men is typical. Their recent refusal to work overtime arose from the fact that overtime pay in the Government Yard is at the rate of "time and a sixth," as compared with "time and a quarter," and even "time and a half" paid by outside firms. The ordinary pay of an engineer at Portsmouth is 36s. a week as compared with £2 in private yards. The trouble is not confined to the engineers. At Devonport, the shipwrights are up in arms, and there is grave risk of a serious stoppage. Meanwhile, the Admiralty are pursuing their old dilatory tactics instead of grappling with the situation boldly and with an honest desire to do justice all round. The situation is perilous in the extreme.

OUR FOURTH GREAT FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

The original cheques, amounting to £1,250, received by the winners in our fourth great Football Competition, are now on view in the residential towns of the recipients. They will be found in the windows of the following shops:—Messrs. Sydenham and Co., Pier Approach, Bournemouth; Mr. A. Blackburn, 14, Charlotte Street, Broadstairs; Messrs. Nixon and Jarvis, Bank Place, Bangor; Mr. George Poole, 16, Broad Street, South Molton, Devon, and Mr. J. Hemming, 39, Queen Street, Neath.

OUR OWN ALMANAC.

MAY.

In the Spring the young man fancies
That his girl will murmur Yea,
Thinking she will not refuse him;
Yet he doubts—perhaps she MAY.

Lovers know the tender passion
Has its changes every day,
Youth that dreads to woo in winter
Shrewdly thinks in May he MAY.

All the pretty girls know Cupid
Will no more be kept at bay;
Hearts are due unto his arrow,—
Will he shoot straight? Ah, he MAY.

So the lovers get together
Where sunbeams and shadows play,
And he whispers, in the shadow,
"I would kiss you, if I MAY?"

Coy, she feigns she would deny him,
But in such a timid way,
Thinking, "How I wish he'd do it,
'Stead of asking if he MAY!"

Oh, 'tis Spring leads to the altar,
Where the girl vows to obey;
Ten to one she never does so—
Just the off chance that she MAY!

RICARDO.

"Bullets." More than 5,500 Cash and Other Prizes Weekly. Value £1,895.

DIFFERING DOCTORS.

INJURED WORKMAN'S SORRY PLIGHT.

Our attention has been called to a remarkable case arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act. In April, 1910, George May, a builder's labourer, of Chingford, Essex, met with an accident in the course of his employment and sustained terrible injuries. His employers, Messrs. Nash and Co., Limited, at once recognised their legal liability in the matter, and after some amount of preliminary parleying, the case went to arbitration. May was awarded a weekly payment during the continuance of his incapacity. All the doctors who saw him, including the Medical Referee under the Act, expressed the opinion that he would never work again. His bodily injuries were of a permanent nature, while the shock of the accident had completely shattered his nerves. From that day to this, May has been continuously ill. He has never been out of the doctor's hands. He is weak and lame, and has, moreover, been overtaken by a grievous nervous malady, which alone would unfit him for any regular occupation.

Conflicting Evidence.

In November, 1910, Messrs. Nash and Co. apparently got a notion that May had recovered from the worst effects of the accident, and they accordingly intimated their intention of discontinuing the weekly compensation allowance. Supported by his own doctor, and by his solicitor, May determined to fight for his rights, and, in due course, the matter came before Judge Scully in the Berkshire County Court.

The County Court proceedings were brief. Dr. Fraser, the applicant's own medical attendant, stated that May was totally incapable of laborious work. The patient was "more or less of a nervous wreck," and there was "marked weakness of the left thigh and a great deal of bodily weakness." Dr. Fraser stated on oath that in his opinion May "would never be able to do anything again." Counsel for the employers seems to have made some attempt to parry Dr. Fraser's evidence by a suggestion that May's nervous disorder was unconnected with the accident, whereupon Dr. Fraser retorted that, in his judgment, it was a direct result of the accident.

Dr. Fraser was followed in the witness box by two medical officers of an insurance society, both of whom declared that May was quite fit to go back to work. Here was a startling difference of opinion! We desire to impute no motives, but if it be urged that Dr. Fraser was an "interested" witness, we reply that the two other medical men were much more interested.

An Amazing Decision.

The Act provides that any dispute as to the nature, extent, or continuance of a man's injuries shall be referred to a single Medical Referee for decision. The proceedings were adjourned in order that the Medical Referee might examine the patient and report.

The examination took place. The Referee found that May was able to return to work. In the medical dispute the Referee ranged himself with the insurance doctors and against the applicant's medical attendant. Dr. Fraser is a surgeon of sufficiently high repute to make such a divergence of opinion in the highest degree remarkable. Nor does his opinion stand alone. From the date of the accident to the date of the Referee's report, May obtained a fortnightly medical certificate stating that he was unfit for work. During this period he was examined by no less than fourteen doctors, and he was all the time in receipt of sickness pay from the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society. In such an amazing case, there should surely be some appeal from the unaided judgment of a single medical officer, no matter how eminent or accomplished. May's illness was one and indivisible. Before the accident he was a strong and healthy man. To-day he is a total wreck. It is a monstrous thing that an injured man should be deprived of all vestige of compensation and reduced to the verge of destitution at the fiat of a medical man who is in a minority of three on a panel of seventeen!

Parliament has laid down the measure of recompense an employer shall render to a workman injured in his service. The elimination of personal feeling and the substitution of a hard and fast schedule of prices is not an unmixed blessing.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXLIV.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A GENTLEMAN "ON THE ROCKS."

Contrary to most of those to whom the phrase is applied, the subject of this appeal is "a gentleman by birth and education." He is forty-four years of age, married, with two children. His grandfather was an Indian general, and his father an officer of less rank in the British Army. The latter died when his son was six years of age. We need not set forth the lad's life from six to forty-four, except to say that perhaps his greatest drawback was the fact that his education took place in an environment that did not tend to assist him in a commercial career. Thrown on the world with no private income, he could not follow his ancestors' footsteps and serve his country as a commissioned officer. His teaching and upbringing had instilled into his mind a false pride which undoubtedly has been his downfall. Had it not been for this, he might have joined as a "ranker" and worked his way to a commission. Unfitted for office work, and too proud to take off his coat and earn his livelihood by the sweat of his brow, he drifted into journalism. For a number of years he managed to earn a precarious livelihood as a "free lance"; but, without technical knowledge or special ability, it is no wonder that he now finds himself "on the rocks." We have paid a visit to the two rooms he calls "home," and have seen his wife and two children, aged four and two respectively. The rooms were clean and the youngsters well cared for. Furniture was conspicuous by its absence, but the rent was paid up to date. Of pawntickets we saw half a hundred, which clearly showed that even the parents' and children's clothing had been pawned, together with the bed linen. Everything pointed to the very lowest depths of destitution—destitution with pride writ large upon the faces of both parents. We perused some of the man's literary work in different magazines, and asked how it was he was not able to continue with his contributions. His answer was logical enough: "Most of the editors have got tired of me, for the reason that when I send in my work I am bound to ask for immediate payment. Most papers pay once a month, and if one can't wait they give preference to those who can." Here, then, is a man, well educated, in the prime of life, of good character, with a loving wife and children, eager to work to support them, but he cannot do so. Can any of our readers give him a job? He would be glad of one at 30s. a week, as agent, collector, or something of that kind. Both he and his wife and children are badly in want of clothes. The man's height is 5 ft. 9 ins., and his chest measurement is 38 ins. Perhaps this appeal will put them all on their feet. They are living on hope—and very little else.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCXLI.—T. P. G., 1s. 6d.; Y., 5s.

CCXLII.—C. P., 2s. 6d.; S. B. S., 2s. 6d.; W. T., 1s.; M. R., 5s.; "A Winner," 1s.; C. W. J. B., £1; "Only a Servant," 1s. 6d.; "Bert," 6d.; "D.O.U.T.I.S.T.," 2s. 6d.; H. M., 1s.; "Won a Double," £1; "Leavesden," 4s.; J. H. N., 2s. 3d.; F. H., 1s.; F. D., 1s.; "Five per Cent.," 1s.; "Tom," 2s. 6d.; C. P. K., 6d.; H. B., 1s.; "Silent," 3s. 3d.; C. F., 2s.; W. C. V., 2s.; E. G., 1s.; E. R., 1s.; F. E. P., 5s.; "Young Joan," 1s. 6d.

CCXLIII.—"Ivy Mary," 5s.; "Some of the Competition Staff," 2s.; W. W., 6d.; H. R., 6d.; 1d. each from P. A. M., J. J. P., A. R. E., M. S. D., Miss D., L. H., S. C., E. K. F., A.E.B.

We regret that, owing to pressure upon space, we are compelled to hold over the acknowledgment of sums received through the medium of our Collecting Boxes.

Cash for Cricket Forecasts. Huge Prizes: £1,000, £250, £100 and £50.

Just the Hat you want for Lounge and Holiday Wear

—a really happy combination of Perfect Comfort and Good Style; suitable for most occasions: Ideal for Neglige Wear, Evening Wear, Garden Wear, Golfing, Cycling, Tennis, Boating, for all but formal occasions.

The "AERO" FOLDING FELT

is the Lightest Hat of its kind in the whole world—weighing but 1¼ ounces.

. . Adaptability is a strong feature of the "Aero." Being extremely pliable, it can be shaped by the wearer to suit his face, his taste, or the occasion—the possible shapes being almost endless in variety. It is made of good quality felt, so soft and pliable, that the hat can be folded and put into one's pocket. It is practically waterproof; heavy rain might penetrate it, but would not injure it. It is made in the following colours: Dark Green, Light Green, Brown, Fawn, Drab, Grey, Black, and White.

4/6 POST FREE IN U.K. ... ... ABROAD, 5/-

. . This hat can be obtained from any of our branches except the Gracechurch Street one, or post free from our Mail Order Dept., at 388, Strand. In ordering by post please state the size of hat usually worn, and the Colour required. Remittances must accompany all orders, but the hat will be exchanged (if not approved) or money refunded. Please mention "John Bull" when ordering.

Horne BROTHERS

Central Establishment and Mail Order Dept: **388, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.**

97, Gracechurch St., E.C. 50, Newgate St., E.C. 23-29, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.
56, Fenchurch St., E.C. 82 & 83, Fleet St., E.C. 24 & 25, King William St., E.C.
105, Bishopsgate, E.C. 29, Coventry St., W. 118&120, New Oxford St., W.C.

Sale of Men's SPORTS CLOTHING

Golfing Jackets. All sizes: Scotch and Irish Tweed. Usually 30/- and 35/- Now **20/-**

Flannel Trousers. All sizes: In Lovat Shades. Usually priced 13/- Now **7/9**

SELFRIDGE'S

BARGAIN BASEMENT.

OUR ADVICE.

We hear a lot nowadays about the scarcity of men who are capable of earning as much as £5 a week and the struggle for existence of the thousands of men who are not able to demand more than 30s. a week to keep their wives and families.

Although in a few cases "bad luck" may be the reason, there is no disguising the fact that every man has his future in his own hands, more or less, and it is the man who realises this fact that is constantly on the look-out for opportunities for safeguarding himself against unemployment and for improving his present wage by making himself worth more money to either his present employer or a fresh one. No matter what his present occupation is, he is the kind of man who says to himself, "I will lose no time in fitting myself to enter the Motor Industry, which is now in its infancy, and which offers by far the best chances to smart men, and I will call or write at once to the Motor Industry's training centre:—The British School of Motoring, Coventry House, 5 and 6, Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, W (opposite the Prince of Wales Theatre, near Leicester Square), for their Free Illustrated Prospectus (J) on how to obtain instruction in Practical Motoring and how to get a berth in the Motor Industry."

This is the kind of man who succeeds—he does not rely upon his present job or trade: he sees that he has two strings to his bow. He is the smart man—are you one also?

Learn to SKETCH in 2 hours

..The A.B.C. Method of Drawing provides a short cut to drawing skill by enabling you to apply to drawing the pictorial ability you gained in learning to write. You can learn it in your own home, as it is taught by correspondence lessons and letters. When you are proficient, London's leading Studio, The Association of Disigners, will provide you with well-paid commissions. Write to-day for Booklet "S" with full details and opinions of prominent Artists, The A.B.C. School of Drawing, 46, Chancery Lane London.

Quality Rules Price

even in Dry-Cleaning and Dyeing. Our charges may be slightly higher than are quoted elsewhere, but when the values are compared, it will be found that our prices are really low in comparison. When you have a suit which is not worn out, but has become soiled, stained or creased—

SEND it to JOHNSONS'

to be treated by their Patent Process, because:

1. They extract ALL the dust and dirt with which the fabric is impregnated.
2. Every spot and stain is eradicated, shininess is removed, and the fabric is restored to its original appearance and looks "Just like New."
3. Suits ordered to be dyed are first dry-cleaned, and the vest and sleeve linings are removed to avoid any "dyed" appearance.
4. The garments will be returned beautifully unished and tailor pressed.

Suits Cleaned, 4/6 Dyed, 7/-

Ladies' Blouses, Dresses, Gloves, also treated with equal care and effectiveness. Send for Price List H, and full list of Branches.

JOHNSON BROS.
Bootle Dye Works :: LIVERPOOL

DERELICT PARSONS.

THE SAD CASE OF THE POORER CLERGY.

By "Tophon."

That there is chronic unemployment among the clergy of the Established Church will come as a surprise to most people who think that unemployment is confined to the horny-handed son of toil. The Bishops know of it; but they can do little to remedy it. They do not even try.

Let us see how the question affects the clergy. Fifty per cent. or more of the clergy of the Church of England are educated at the Public Schools and at Oxford or Cambridge. The supply from these sources is, however, diminishing, and the clergy are being drawn from the younger universities and from Theological Colleges.

The average man who enters the Church of England as a profession is ordained at twenty-three or twenty-four. He gives, at this age, a legal assent to a variety of theological and metaphorical propositions, the meaning of which does not become plain to him till some years later. What happens to the majority of clergy is this: After serving for a few, or many years, as assistant curates, they are presented by some patron, who knows them, to a living. A fair number have some private income—an almost essential prerequisite to promotion; and a great number have married money. No body of men, as a class, marry money so extensively and regularly as the clergy. Nor are they to be greatly blamed for this; for they get barely enough to live upon, in any decency, and there are many demands upon their pockets. Besides, hundreds of benefices can only be held by men who have private fortunes; and the first criterion of fitness for many livings is the reply to the question, "What private means have you?" With that class, the beneficed, who form the large majority of the clergy, I am not now dealing. They may be unemployed in one sense, but it is the unwilling unemployed I am dealing with.

"Passing Rich with Forty Pounds a Year"?

There are about a third more clergy than benefices; and after schoolmasters, chaplains, etc., have absorbed some of them, there is a relatively large number of unfortunate clergy who drift from place to place until, at middle age, they are getting too old to be employed. At middle age, the curate's market value begins to decline. When he is young he gets £150 a year; when he is grey and experienced, he is lucky to get £100. His price declines as his experience increases. Only incumbents of very poor and undesirable parishes will give him a grudging shelter. The vicar of a parish does not like giving orders to a man of greater age and of wider experience than himself. Nor is the old curate so tractable. He has formed his habits. The women, too, are a cause of his removal from the sphere of active work. In the congregation of nearly every church there is a majority of women. There is usually one man to five women. With them the young curate is popular. There are also matrimonial possibilities. The mothers of most of the daughters in the parish feel convinced that they would make such admirable wives for the clergy. And so the grey-headed curate has to pack. And, as the years move on, he finds that no one wants him. He enters upon the last resource of the destitute clergy. He becomes a seedy guinea-pig—that is, he earns an occasional guinea on Sundays, where the vicar has fallen ill and there is no one to take his place. It is, however, a precarious existence. There are hundreds of guinea-pigs living in one-roomed tenements in the less fashionable quarters of London's suburbs. They are hard put to it sometimes.

A Scandal to Christendom.

It is not at all creditable to the richest Church in Christendom, that it should underpay and starve its clergy, as it is doing to-day. It is the only Church which has no pension for its aged or enfeebled ministers. Moreover, the Bishops are, consciously or not, accelerating this evil. They are constantly advertising for young men to be ordained; and offering them grants of money to tempt them.

It is a thoroughly bad and scandalous state of affairs. Nonconformist bodies or the Church of Rome would not tolerate it. Yet it is quite easy to remedy if the Church were not so bound with the fetters of legality on every side, or if the Bishops had the commonsense or the courage to initiate some needful reforms.

MORE LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

15E, Tiddler Terrace,
Tottenham.

My Dear Clara,—Your truly loving e-pistle came as a very great sur-prise in the early morning. D'reckly I heard the postman's thump I said to ma Betcher that's a letter for some-body, and with that I hopped down-stairs and grabbed it quick as wink.

Soon's I'd read it a few times I said Why I almost bleeve its from Clara Parkins. Me not being washed or my hair up or anything, I couldn't hardly bleeve the truth, straight, it seemed too rap-churous.

What ma said was Come back to bed you fool else put some-thing round you don't know where these morning drafts are going to strike—just look how you've twisted every blessed rag off me too flying about likes if you got no sence—think your-self lucky you didn't step on some-thing and getcher foot burnt—you'll pay for the next you break and so I don't deceive yer.

It was from you, after all,

Of course I've heard lots about you, but then it don't do to bleeve all you hear do it? If I'd been one to take in all what friends told me I should have been as bad as them, and p'raps worse very likely. Lissen while you roam, think about it when at home, that's my motto.

I don't seem to have had much time at home lately. Such a lot of peeple know you or your mother, and once they get saying things there's no holding them. I don't ever go home these times without enough fun to fill a book. Pays to move about a bit, don't it?

So you're getting on all right now, queen. And what a bunch, a brood—batch I mean—of little darlings you've planted in the home! The photo you've marked Agganess makes her out very dark. I s'pose she was before the gas got laid on.

Does that furnished pigeon-hole of yours meet present needs or have you spread be-yond? You did think of ex-panding to the attic next door the last time you saw me, if I remember rightly.

Oh but doesn't the time fly. Why it only seems like the week before last my mother stopped me from going to the Happy Evenings. Said I could learn games enough at home, off father.

You re-member us going to school together, don't you? We used to come home together too if you recko-lect, 'xcept those mornings when the health lady let you off early so's you could have your mat shook or your ears scrubbed or something. Wasn't she a fussy old fudge?

Who'd have thought you'd have lived to see your own little pets coming home with jars of oint-ment and pink tickets for the high-solation ward.

Well, I s'pose what is to be will be. Don't be surprised if you hear of me getting off in the course of later. My young gentle-man's been awful lucky at the hoop-la, and I happen to know he's got some-thing saved up as well. Besides, we get dearer and nearer every Bank Holli-day, and hair-pins all over the door-step every evening.

Talking about presents for good girls, queen, how offen do you get the thirty shillings? Is it twice a year or more or not so much?

Wouldn't it pay you to bank it and buy a bit of land? Of course you know your own bisniss best, only what I meen to say, if you'd a bit of land—half a field or like that—you would have some-thing of your own to fall back on.

My poor old Aunt Margaret didn't get the luck you're having. I s'pose you heard about poor old Aunt. Been gone a month next Tuesday.

She got so inter-esting at the last it was a shame to lose her. When the medsin got up in her head she used to rattle on about uncle and their early marrid life like you never would bleeve. The dullest schollar could have learnt some-thing. It was a treat to lissen to her.

My young man once said he didn't hold with people going away for their honey-moon. Weather per-mitting, he'd come home to his dinner every day in-stead. On matters like that Aunt could have coached me thurrowly if she hadn't been in such a hurry to be off.

I must now con-clewd with fond regards. Don't forget to write soon's you learn anything I ought to know.

x x x Your ever sincere friend, x x
JANE ANN.

£1,000 waiting for you. See Our Great Cricket Competition. Page 643.

Are you a 30/- a Week Man?

Sir Hiram Maxim's Startling accusations—Why are there so few men worth £5 a week?

THAT great inventor and keen business man, Sir Hiram Maxim, in a striking series of letters to the *Daily Express*, makes some startling accusations against the modern business man. He says in effect that he, as an employer, can find thousands of men to fill jobs at 30s. a week, but that these men never improve, never become worthy of the positions at £5 a week.

And he says this is because the 30s. a week man never troubles to get any real knowledge of business. He does just what he *has* to do, and no more. But the serious part of the matter is that Sir Hiram is right.

Now once you admit that Sir Hiram Maxim is right, and that the 30s. a week man never rises because he never gets a real knowledge of his work, you should carry the principle a little further. You may smile at the shop assistant whom he describes who sold bottles of gum for years, and never noticed that they were labelled "mucilage," but he provides an object lesson to you, and there is one question you should ask yourself very seriously. Its answer may make a great difference to you if you mean to succeed.

In six words this question is:—

What Do You Know About Business?

At first sight you may be inclined to pooh-pooh the question, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will probably own, after a mortifying self-examination, that it is precious little indeed of sound Business knowledge that you really know—confidently and surely enough to bank on.

Yet, without this Business knowledge, your chances of doing well for yourself in the business world are very poor ones indeed. With it, there is

No Position You Cannot Aspire to.

Without it you run the risk of being a 30s. a week man all your life, or, if not that, at any rate, a near approach to one.

Now what do *you* know about Business?

For instance, do you understand Bookkeeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance-sheet? Do you understand exactly how the financial position of a tradesman or a firm is determined from his books? Do you understand profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know much about the Income-Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Do you know how to start a Business? How to secure its credit, and to buy its equipment? How to organise its departments, build up its reputation, collect its debts, rake in its profits?

Yet these matters are Business knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

Now What Are You to do?

You must get the "Business Encyclopædia."

You cannot do without it, whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the Business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. It gives you new ideas, and it enables you to put into successful practice your own ideas.

The subjects dealt with in the "Business Encyclopædia" include every phase of business in full technical detail. The legal documents most commonly needed are shown in actual facsimile insetted into the book. Card index and accounting systems for every business are illustrated and described in detail.

The "Business Encyclopædia," in short, supplies an experience so wide that no one man could ever possess it by any other means. The one great essential of modern business success is knowledge, the knowledge that the "Encyclopædia" has been designed to supply.

The Secrets of Success.

Whatever your business or position, the "Business Encyclopædia" can help you as nothing else can. To the junior it offers a knowledge far wider and far surer than any his Manager can have; to the Manager, it lends knowledge and that equally valuable asset, confidence in his decisions.

If you are doubtful as to how the "Business Encyclopædia" can help you in your particular sphere, send for a book describing its contents more fully than there is space for here. It is sent to you free, and places you under no obligation to buy or even to inspect the books.

TWO OPINIONS.

Messrs. J. S. FRY and SONS, Ltd., Bristol, write:—

"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work."

SIR THOMAS DEWAR writes:—

"I must congratulate you upon the production of such an excellent work. The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure that before long they will be found to be a necessity in every commercial house. Now that we see the 'Encyclopædia,' the marvel is that a such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

A FREE BOOK.

We have prepared a handsomely illustrated Book which will be sent to you free of charge, and which will show you how necessary the "Business Encyclopædia" is to your success, and how to obtain it for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

The CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia."

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

JACK: "'Ere, Bill, can you tell me what Capital and Labour is?"
BILL: "Yes. Supposing I lent you five pounds, that would be Capital; and if I tried to get it back, that would be Labour."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

MERCHANT: My good man, with all your praise of the Government, I fail utterly to see what real benefit it has bestowed upon the working classes.

WORKING MAN: Wot? Wot erbart Old Age Penshuns?

MERCHANT: Pshaw! Don't talk to me about Old Age Pensions! A direct discouragement to thrift, I call it. A pauperizing Act. Nothing more or less.

WORKING MAN: Wot? Pauperizin'? W'y, its kep' thars'ns outer the work-'us.

MERCHANT: May be. But what has it substituted? The necessity to expose your abject poverty to a committee of local busybodies, and compulsory personal application at the post office for a paltry pittance. That is only another form of pauperism. Then there's your precious Insurance Act. Does that meet with your approbation?

WORKING MAN: It would if Lloyd George 'ad kep' 'is promise, but I ain't seen no ninepence fur my fourpence upter nar.

MERCHANT: Nor ever will, I'm afraid.

WORKING MAN: Enny'ow, there's a Bill before the 'Ouse nar that'll do a bit o' good.

MERCHANT: What's that?

WORKING MAN: W'y, the Plural Votin' Bill. One Man, One Vote. Thet's the ticket.

MERCHANT: What good will that do the working man?

WORKING MAN: Enny amount. It puts 'im on the same level as the torff, fur one thing. Wy should one man 'ave more votes than another? Thet's wot I awsk.

MERCHANT: Surely, if a man owns a house in Birmingham and one in London, paying rates and taxes for both, contributing to the poor-rate in each case and generally adding to the prosperity of the two districts, he is entitled to have a say as to who shall represent the constituencies in which his two houses are situated?

WORKING MAN: Don't see it.

MERCHANT: *Won't* see it, you mean. Look at it in this way. Suppose you were a member of two separate clubs, paying your subscription to each, would you think it right if you were only allowed to be present and vote at a general meeting of one, and not the other?

WORKING MAN: If I paid my money I'd 'ave my say, wot I should be entitled to.

MERCHANT: Exactly. And, again, look at it from this point of view. Suppose you were a shareholder in two or three companies, would you think it just if you were only permitted to be present and vote at a general meeting of one and not of the others?

WORKING MAN: 'Corse not. Enny fool could see thet.

MERCHANT: Very well, then. Let us call an electoral constituency a company, for the sake of argument. A man who owns property in several districts, paying rates and taxes in each, may be compared to a shareholder. He has a right to study and protect his interest in each company or constituency. If he believes that the return to Parliament of a Liberal or a Tory member would be for the benefit of the country, which includes all his constituencies, surely he has a right to a vote in each one?

WORKING MAN: That ain't the point. The point is, One man, One Vote, and there ain't no gettin' away from it.

MERCHANT: But you admitted the truth of the illustrations I put forward as regards clubs and companies.

WORKING MAN: Thet don't matter. Thet ain't poler-ticks.

MERCHANT: Then give me one reason why you support the One Man, One Vote idea?

WORKING MAN: Well, I'm a Liberal, and I knows that most of the plural voters are Tories. See?

MERCHANT: I see. Party tactics. You want to reduce the Conservative vote so as to give the Radicals a better chance at the next General Election.

WORKING MAN: You've got it, guv'nor!

£50 for a "Mauve" Coupon. Particulars on page 643.

THE MAN WHO IS CURING THE NATION'S EYESIGHT.

Famous London Specialist's Wonderful Discovery.

PARTICULARS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

A well-known London specialist has made a remarkable discovery which already is making a sensation wherever the result of its use is known.

It is nothing less than the discovery of a wonderfully simple yet scientific method for restoring perfect eyesight to the weak-sighted and bringing back to tired, old eyes their once youthful, clear-seeing power.

Everybody who for the first time is told about the new discovery is eagerly asking, "Will it do my sight good?"

The answer in practically every case is, "Yes."

As Mr. John Levison, the discoverer of this wonderful method of eyesight restoration, says, "Every sufferer may cure his or her own trouble at home, inexpensively and speedily, by following out the simple instructions I give, which are indeed so simple that a child could understand, yet so effective as to be of benefit, no matter how bad the sight may be."

One can easily imagine how enthusiastic are those whom Mr. Levison's discovery has already restored to perfect sight.

Letters pour in upon him daily saying what a splendid boon it is to have once more the blessing of good eyesight, and expressing gratitude to Mr. Levison for having made his wonderful treatment so universal.

Most successful has the new discovery proved in the cure of:—

1. **Failing or weakening eyesight.**
2. **Long-sightedness.**
3. **Short-sightedness.**
4. **Old Sight and Blurring.**
5. **Twitching Eyes.**
6. **Hot Eyes.**
7. **Watery Eyes.**
8. **Discharging Eyes.**
9. **Unequal Power of eyes.**
10. **Aching Eyes.**
11. **Red and Inflamed Eyes.**
12. **Eyesight Headaches.**

St. Paul's as seen by the short-sighted.

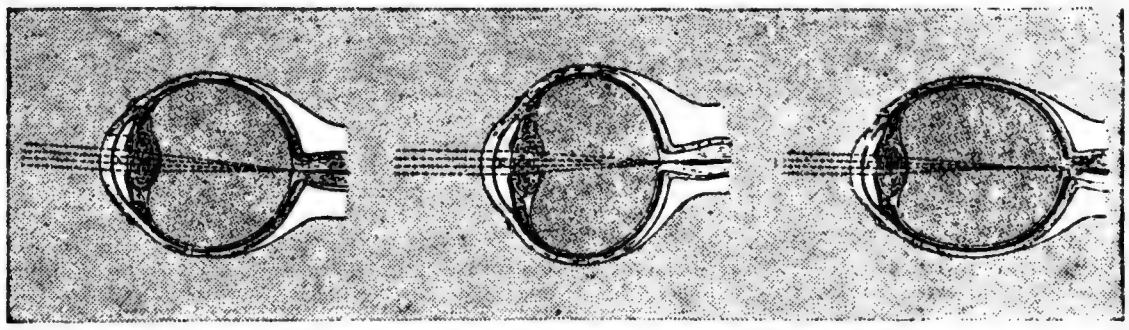
St. Paul's as it should be seen.

If you lack the full benefit of the sense of sight, you should not fail to secure John Levison's remarkably successful advice free to all who send the convenient form below.

Mr. Levison has thought how he could best reply to the great number of eyesight sufferers who have written to him in order to let them know exactly what his discovery is and how it may be adopted and he has now prepared printed particulars which may be obtained either by calling on Mr. Levison personally or by writing to him at his Institute, 64, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

Naturally, Mr. John Levison has already communicated his discovery to the scientific Press, and that old-established and authoritative medical journal, the *Family Doctor*, after a careful investigation of Mr. Levison's system of treatment, strongly advises all whose sight is imperfect to write to him for the particulars he is—for the time being prepared to send to all who write him, enclosing a penny stamp for reply.

In the course of a special editorial article, the *Family Doctor* says:—"Letters we have read, records of cases investigated, and the knowledge of the possibilities of such a treatment as that Mr. Levison controls, not only permit us to emphasise its perfect safety and its great success, but to add that this treatment must be included amongst the greatest benefits that have accrued from scientific endeavour for a long time past."



The normal eyeball. *The eyeball of the long-sighted.* *The eyeball of the short-sighted.*

For your convenience in applying for the particulars of this wonderful eyesight discovery, the Coupon below may be filled in and posted for the particulars of the new discovery, which restores weak or failing sight.

To Mr. JOHN LEVISON,
64, Wigmore St., Cavendish Sq., London, W.

Please send full particulars of your eyesight discovery described in "John Bull." I enclose 1d. stamp for postage.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Please write clearly and say whether Mr., Mrs., Miss, Rev., or title.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. James Lowther, Speaker of the House of Commons.

DEAR MR. LOWTHER,—I much regret to hear that, contrary to popular belief, you do not receive wine from the State, broadcloth from the Clothworkers' Company, bucks and does from the Master of the Buckhounds, and other gifts of custom and gratitude too numerous and delightful to mention. Personally, I can conceive no recognition too great for the self-sacrificing duty you perform in daily submitting yourself to the tedium of the proceedings of the "greatest"—and dullest—assembly in the world. And if, by custom, you are entitled to the little compliments mentioned above—well, see that you get them.

How are all the boys behaving themselves since I left the festive scene?

JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Loreburn, Ex-Lord Chancellor.

DEAR LORD LOREBURN,—I see you have written a preface to a book by Mr. J. A. Hobson on the "German Panic."

From a cursory glance at its contents, I am unable to commend your judgment or to accept your conclusions. You detect no sinister motive in German machinations. You are content that she should pile up armaments with prodigal profusion, and should insistently challenge our command of the sea. You indulge in trite reflections upon our foreign policy which are marked by a lamentable want of insight, and a woeful blindness to the plain significance of facts.

You are of those who, having eyes, see not. Like the proverbial ostrich you have buried your head, and from the depths of your false security you cry that all is well. Such purblindness is amazing in a man of your high standing. There was a time when you showed a shrewder sense. High office has apparently dimmed the clarity of your vision.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., House of Commons.

DEAR LEADER,—I observe that the Oxfordshire Farmers' Union have passed a resolution declaring that they will be no party "to any change in our fiscal policy that excludes agriculture from its benefits." Soulless clods!

Take my advice and ignore them. Let not captious critics fret you. Party government is too high for them. They would degrade the noble game of politics to the level of their huckstering markets. Shame on them! Fie!

JOHN BULL.

To Mrs. H. B. Irving, Board of Guardians, St. Pancras.

MADAM,—I am right glad to see that the electors of St. Pancras have had the good sense to elect you as a Guardian—and, at the head of the poll.

There is plenty of work for women on such public bodies, but there is a danger lest the places accessible to them should be snapped up by frumps and faddists—the undesirables of your sex. By sacrificing your leisure in the exacting office to which you have been elected, you have set a fashion which should be potent for good.

Those of us who know the spell you can cast across the footlights will envy the poor who come within close range of your winsome smile.

Many of them, poor creatures, are starving for the tender word which you will know so well how and when to speak.

JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Fletcher Little, National Liberal Club, London.

MY DEAR DOC.,—Information reaches me that you have a motion down for the annual meeting of the National Liberal Club, on May 6th, whereby you hope to prohibit members from asking each other to "have another." Are you sure you have got it right? When *I* was a member of the Club the usual thing *I* heard was, "I don't mind if I do." But what a ghastly conception of club life, to endeavour to regulate its drinking amenities by hard and fast rules! Don't you know the difference between a club and a barracks?

JOHN BULL.

Sir Andrew M'Donald, Governor, George Heriot's Trust, Edinburgh.

DEAR M'DONAL',—Some recent proceedings of the George Heriot Trust, in Edinburgh, have been brought to my notice. I am not a lover of the Insurance Act, but I am still less a lover of the kind of meanness which takes advantage of it to the hurt of poor men dependent on their health for the opportunity of earning their daily bread. It was reported to the Trust than an employee was off duty on account of illness, and when he applied that the Governors should make up the difference between the 10s. a week benefit he was receiving under the Act and the 23s. a week he was getting as wages while in the employment of the Trust, you, sir, first proposed a motion that the application should be refused and then offered him, on behalf of your colleagues, an expression of sympathy, which was not only humbug, but humbug as contemptible as it was transparent. Professor MacGregor was apparently the only Governor of the Trust willing to do as in similar case he would wish to be done by, and your motion, to the shame of yourself and your supporters, was carried. Happily for the poor beggar that in his illness he had his Insurance benefit to rely on, for, upon my word, if it had depended on you, I do not think he would have had a penny piece to rely on at all.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, Grimsby.

HONOURED CHAIRMAN,—Permit me to salute you with profound respect and in all humility. I observe that a question of great moment has recently agitated your august Board. You and your colleagues very properly desire that the paupers committed to your care should manifest a due sense of the dignity of your office and of the majesty of your persons. It has been rumoured that some of them, lost to all sense of the fitness of things, have presumed to remain seated in your presence, and you naturally desire to nip such effrontery in the bud. It is a species of lese-majesty—subversive of all decency and order.

You have acted with promptitude and decision. Henceforth a pauper who omits to rise at the entry of a Guardian will be liable to retribution—swift and sudden.

I see no objection to this mode of greeting an ordinary guardian, but is it quite adequate to your own exalted station? Does it sufficiently mark the great gulf fixed between your august person and the objects of your patronage and bounty? Would not it be more fitting if the inmates were to receive you prone upon their faces?

JOHN BULL.

To Mrs. Winifred Emma Custance, Evesham.

MADAME,—What I gather from the evidence and your conviction in the Evesham police-court is that you are the sort of jezebel mistress who ought to be fined for employing anybody under 20 as a servant girl. A girl of 14 has no protection while engaged in domestic duties with a woman of your stamp. Your special entertainment was to hit her with your fist, bang her against the wall, strike her with a walking-stick, and other things which came handy, kick her in the stomach, and knock her downstairs. The child is out of your house now, at any rate, be the fate of the next one in it what will. Be warned by the penalty of £10 and costs inflicted on you. Another appearance in a like case, and you will probably find that money will not do.

JOHN BULL.

To George Butler Lloyd, Esq., M.P.

SUPERIOR SIR,—I am told that on the eve of the Shrewsbury poll you appealed to your hearers to vote for you "in the interests of respectability." How exasperating it must be to you to know that 1,800—or nearly half your constituents—are outside the pale! *Au revoir! We shall meet again.*

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Stuart Samuel, Whitechapel.

SIR,—Accept my condolences upon having no seat—and upon the annoyance of standing before you can sit again. In the special circumstances of the case I hope you will be re-elected. In any case, cheer up—every cloud has a silver lining.

JOHN BULL.

£500 again Offered this week for the Best "Bullet."

A "PARLIAMENTARY" PASSENGER.

JOHN BULL: "I know it will 'disturb' you, gentlemen, but I MUST have a 'seat'!"

LAW FOR THE MILLION.

UNTYING THE MARRIAGE KNOT.

The legislature has furnished luckless spouses with machinery, more or less crude, for the redress of marital wrongs. We propose to survey briefly the courses open to those who have "repented at leisure." The subject falls into two divisions—Judicial Separation and Divorce.

JUDICIAL SEPARATION.

Separation is the less drastic remedy. *It does not destroy the marriage tie.* It merely frees the injured party from the most irksome incidents. Application for judicial separation may be made to the Divorce Division of the High Court on the following grounds: Adultery, or cruelty, or desertion for two years. *Either man or wife may apply.*

As will be presently seen, a woman can obtain a judicial separation in circumstances which would not entitle her to full divorce.

But High Court proceedings are costly, and the legislature has had some regard to the interests of the poor in cases of matrimonial dispute. *A married woman may apply to a magistrate, or justice of the peace,* for an order for judicial separation, and thus dispense with the necessity for a High Court action.

Magistrates will grant a Separation Order if the applicant can prove that her husband has:

Committed an aggravated assault upon her and been summarily convicted or indicted and fined more than £5, or imprisoned for not less than two months; deserted her; treated her with habitual cruelty or neglect whereby she has been forced to leave him; or that he is an habitual drunkard.

A man may apply for a Separation Order from his wife on the ground that she is an habitual drunkard, but in the case of either man or wife, the inebriety must be of an aggravated kind.

The magistrates' Order will provide for a maintenance allowance from the husband to the wife not exceeding £2 per week; that cohabitation shall cease; that the applicant shall have the custody of the children.

The Court will make no order if the wife has been guilty of adultery.

A Separation Order may at any time be varied or discharged by the Court on application from either party.

DIVORCE.

Divorce is the weightier remedy. It snaps the marriage bond and sets the parties free.

Only the High Court has jurisdiction in divorce proceedings.

A man may obtain a dissolution of his marriage on proof of simple adultery.

A woman must prove one of the following offences: Adultery and cruelty; adultery and desertion for two years; incest; bigamy; rape; bestiality.

Cruelty means conduct causing bodily hurt, *or reasonable fear of bodily hurt. There must be at least two acts of cruelty.* The knowing communication of certain diseases amounts to cruelty.

The Court grants the successful party a "decree nisi," which is a provisional order for divorce, and which is made "absolute" at the end of six months. *No re-marriage is possible till the expiration of this period,* and any act of adultery by the successful party will gravely imperil the final decree.

An undefended divorce suit costs about £40. A defended suit is a luxury for the wealthy. Unless the wife has property of her own the husband must, in the first instance, pay all the costs, whether he is innocent or guilty, although he may subsequently be reimbursed from the estate of the co-respondent. An innocent husband may obtain damages from the co-respondent as a solatium for his pain and loss.

A guilty husband may be ordered to pay a permanent allowance to the wife from the date of divorce. Such allowance does not usually exceed one-third of his income.

The Court will give the innocent party the custody of the children.

The recent Report of the Divorce Commission contains valuable suggestions for the reform of the divorce laws. There is an insistent public demand for readier and cheaper divorce and for greater equality of the sexes before the law. It is not our province to discuss these matters in this column. We have simply epitomised the law as it stands.

LEGAL ADVICE.

(*Postal Order for One Shilling must accompany* EACH SEPARATE *enquiry. Letters must be addressed to the Legal Editor.*)

"ANXIOUS" (Bargoed).—Your son will be detained in the asylum until the doctors certify that he is fit to be discharged, and you must contribute to his support meantime. If you are not satisfied with the doctors' opinion you should apply to have him examined by an independent medical man.

"NIMROD" (Chelsea).—You can leave by giving a week's notice, if that is the agreement; the fact that your wages are paid monthly makes no difference. Why should they turn nasty when they know you are leaving? Are you so unique that you could not be replaced?

"VICTIM" (Gloucester).—It is not necessary for the money-lender to sue all the sureties; he need sue only one, if he likes. If you have to pay the full amount, you can afterwards compel the others to contribute their shares. Oh, why will people guarantee comparative strangers?

"CUMBERLAND SILAS."—If the man does not contribute to the support of the child as ordered, you can apply to the court for a summons, and if he does not pay he will be committed to prison. Your remedy is ample, so don't stand any nonsense.

B. B. (Hackney).—We are sorry your friend has lost an eye. As the accident occurred in the course of his employment, he is entitled to a weekly payment during the time he is totally incapacitated equal to half of his average earnings. When he can resume work, if owing to the injury he is unable to earn as much as he could before the accident, the employer is liable to make up the difference. As the injury is permanent, an agreement should be registered in the County Court. We hope he will be able to see sufficiently well to continue reading JOHN BULL.

T. R. (Harpenden).—If the husband is included in the Insurance Act, as she would not be wholly or mainly dependent on her earnings for her livelihood, the wife need not insure. Women have many advantages under the law.

"FAIR PLAY" (Leeds).—If a person who is left a legacy dies before the testator, the legacy lapses and reverts to the estate, unless the legatee was a child or other lineal descendant of the testator. This may not be "fair play," but it is the law.

"EXPLICIT" (Worcester).—A child born before the marriage would remain illegitimate—even if the parents were subsequently wed, but they could let the child be known by their name, and it could ever after use it, or any other it chose to adopt, for any legal purpose.

M. C. H. (Liverpool).—Your father's judgment creditor can levy execution on your father's goods only, not on those of other people. If he cannot pay the instalments he should apply to the Court to decrease them, and at the same time produce the receipts he has found since the judgment; he will then no doubt be given the proper credit.

E. P. (Bath).—If your wife opened a similar business to that of your late employers in the town and engaged you in it, it would be a breach of your agreement with them, and they could apply to the Courts for an injunction. If you did not comply with any order the Court made, you could be committed to prison for "contempt." We advise you not to attempt any such subterfuge. Why not start in another town?

A. B. (Walthamstow).—As you decided to take the house, paid 11s. deposit, and then changed your mind, the landlord is entitled to keep the money. You will now know that it is sometimes expensive to act in haste.

F. B. (Rotherham).—As your shop is a "refreshment house" within the meaning of the Act, you must not remain open later than the licensed houses in the locality. Your statement that other similar places are permitted to do so is peculiar—perhaps they supply the energetic police officers with free non-alcoholic refreshment occasionally!

B. W. (Tooting).—As your husband has not time to take out a summons against Davis, the insolent and familiar Tooting street-door pest, whom we have already exposed, we can only suggest as an alternative that you should accidentally spill a pail of water from a top window, so that it—quite accidentally, mind!—damps the ardour of this pestilential peregrinator.

L. S. (Chatham).—You could recover damages for the loss of your "mack." which was stolen from your locker in the Salvation Army Soldiers' and Seamen's Home at Chatham, as the authorities were negligent in supplying other men with keys that fitted your locker. Sue in the County Court.

W. B. (Maida Vale).—As you were left a legacy of £100, free of duty, and have received the full amount, keep it and don't give the solicitor the ten pounds he requires to assist him in paying some expenses with which you are not concerned.

T. B. (Matlock).—As your wife holds shares which are not fully paid-up in a company which has gone into liquidation, she is liable for the unpaid balance; but as she has no separate means the liquidator will be unable to recover, and a married woman cannot be made bankrupt unless she is carrying on a business separately, and apart from her husband. This is only one of many advantages enjoyed by married women.

20 Fancywork Transfers Given Away. See "Mary Bull"—Out on Friday.

AN OFFER TO READERS.

NEWSPAPER'S £5 NOTE.

An enterprising journal recently offered a £5 note to the highest bidder, just to test the selling powers of the paper. Whilst the note was eventually disposed of for £4 16s., a number of applicants treated the offer as a huge joke.

A well-known firm of tailors, Messrs. H. Thomas & Co., of 142, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C., offer to make a Gent's Complete well-made stylish suit to measure for only 15s. 6d. Whilst this offer, which is made only to "John Bull" readers, is no less startling than the paper's offer of a £5 note, it is perfectly honest, and made by a responsible firm.

The materials are good, which you can see before ordering as samples are sent free, and a guarantee is given that if not entirely satisfactory goods are given, money is returned in full.

Send a post-card or call to-day for patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. Mention "John Bull" for these 15s. 6d. measure garments are essentially "John Bull" offers. See offer underneath.

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Don't be sceptical. Realise that this is an advertising offer absolutely, and send us to-day merely a postcard for large range of patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. The materials will bear the closest scrutiny—then we fit you to your satisfaction or refund money. Why say more? Can we do more? Mention "John Bull" for when you see it there—IT IS SO.

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A. C. BENSON, M.A., C.V.O., F.R.H.S. (President of Magdalene College, Cambridge), on "The Art of Lecturing."

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These articles cover every phase of the Art of Speaking from the choice of a subject and the collection of material to the art of gesture and the silencing of interruptors. It is safe to say that there is not a public speaker who will not gain by the careful study and application of their many valuable hints and suggestions.

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THE ONLY WAY.

By L. B. P.

The scene was a police-court; the stipendiary was hearing a juvenile case. While the officer gave his evidence in the approved staccato style, punctuating his words according to the movements of the clerk's pen, the young prisoner watched him fearsomely, and wept scalding tears. His mother stood beside him, with an expression of unaccountable pride on her face.

All the evidence for the prosecution had been given, and the magistrate's face showed his belief in all that had been said. The lad noticed this, his intelligence sharpened by his position.

"Oh, please sir," he wailed, "I didn't want to. It was all along o' my mother that I did it. She told me to.

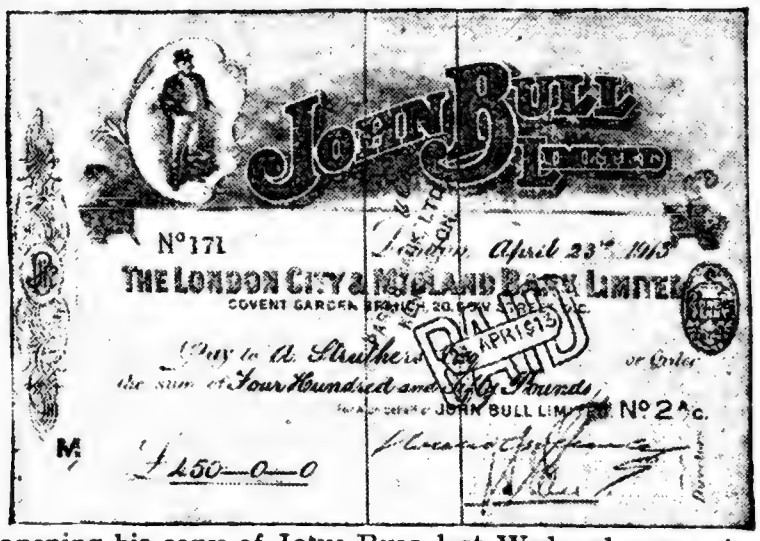
"This boy has made a serious suggestion against you," the magistrate said, turning to the woman, "Can you explain it?"

"That I can, sir," she replied. "And 'e ain't spoke nothin' but the truth. But I did it for 'is good. 'E's got four brothers, 'e 'as, and I tried to bring 'em all up straight. I did it, too—all excep' the last one. 'E went wrong, like wot a good many others do, 'cos 'e got into bad company. But it w's the makin's of him, 'cos when 'e came out o' the reform't'ry school 'e'd learnt boot-makin' and some missionary gen'leman, wot 'ad to do with the p'lice-court, got 'im a job. 'E's got a little shop of 'is own now, an' 'e's a sight better off than the likes of us. 'Is brothers, wot are all older nor 'im, and wot went straight, wot are they? W'y one's a rag-an'-bone man, an' the others are lab'r'rs w'en they can get a job, the which ain't orfen. That's wot they got for keepin' their 'ands off of other people's goods. They weren't tort nothin' that w's any good at the Board schools. Now I love my children just as much as what yor mother loved you, an' I want them to get on. I can't do nothin' for three of them, but one's done something for 'imself an' wanted to do the same for 'is brother. That's why I told 'im to do wot 'e's up 'ere for, an' I 'ope, sir—I 'ope to God—you'll send 'im to a reform't'ry. Will yer, sir?"

OUR 27TH "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

£450 FOR A STREATHAM BUILDER'S FOREMAN.

Mr. A. Struthers, of 2, Alfriston Road, West Side, Clapham Common, the winner of the £450 First Prize in out 27th "Bullets" Competition, is a builder's foreman by trade, and we sincerely hope that the magnificent sum he has gained will be the foundation stone of his fortunes. Mr. Struthers was agreeably surprised on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opening his copy of JOHN BULL last Wednesday morning to find his name announced as the winner of the handsome prize—he had left home before the arrival of the post, and, therefore, missed our congratulatory letter enclosing the cheque. He strongly advises everybody to try the "Bullets" Competitions, and considers that, whether a large prize be won or not, the mental exercise alone will be ample reward.

The original of the above cheque will be on view in the window of Mr. J. Reeves' news agency, 78, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, until May 2nd, and thence until May 6th at the premises of "C.S.S.," 358, Clapham Road.

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Mr H. Williams says: "Had anyone told me that chronic pain could be relieved so quickly I would not have believed it. I suffered from severe Sciatica and Rheumatism generally for twenty years, hardly ever being free from it. The pains were sometimes excruciating. All these were cured through a free prescription which I am pleased to give to anyone. Go to the nearest chemist's shop and get 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. Take two tablets at once, and then one every hour until the pain is relieved. My doctor tells me that it acts just as quickly in Lumbago, Neuralgia, Headache, Neuritis, etc. I saw a very severe case of influenza cured completely in less than twenty-four hours. I understand that this marvellous remedy is used in all the best hospitals of Europe, its chief virtue being that it acts promptly and is absolutely harmless."

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John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 648.
For Sporting Replies, see page 652.
For Legal Replies, see page 636.

T. H. R. B. (Brixton) and many others.—Thanks for congratulations on Shrewsbury Election.

Audi Alt. Part. (Rangoon).—Very well. We record your statement "that, in isolated cases, European officials are living with Burmese women to whom they are not married, *i.e.*, with whom they have not gone through the religious or civil ceremony prescribed by British law, is a fact that cannot be denied, but to style such women concubines is to reveal utter ignorance of Burmese ideas, manners or customs." We are evidently too conventional!

"RATEPAYERS' POCKET" (W. Ealing).—It is not possible for us to inform you "why the Kensington and St. Pancras Board of Guardians have placed their contracts for oilmen's goods with one firm for so many years, thereby excluding other firms who can supply certain items in those contracts at half the price."

J. O. (Devizes).—Neither cutting nor card reached us with your letter. Anyway, a priest who cadges through *The Times* or any other newspaper for money to educate his son merits our hearty disapprobation.

A. B. B. (Westcliff).—It is the "snowball" prayer, and has been going round for years.

"FARMER" (G.O.).—You are like the rest of us. When comes Mr. George, the Collector of Taxes, your duty's to give him whatever he axes.

A. J. (Leicester).—You wish to know whether we "can do anything to wake up Leicester, as it is 50 years behind the times." Well, we have had *one* League meeting there!

T. M. M. (Bournemouth) and others.—As already stated, we can make no distinction between one "clerical cadger" and another merely on account of his sect or creed.

W. N. (Wood Green, N.).—Life is too short, dear friend, to undertake the task of "exposing the tommy-rot of the *Daily Mail*. After all, the price is only one halfpenny."

J. G. P. (Marrowmeu, Zambezia).—It is good of you to send the article on the Shooting of the missionary Douglas, but wasn't 1911 the date of the Flood?

A. C. C. (Bognor).—Your screed "To whom it may concern in Bognor" is cast into the flames. We could not make out whom it concerned.

J. R. L. (Kensington).—We trouble not our soul with the dithyrambic paradoxes of Mr. G. K. Chesterton.

N. G. C. (Tunbridge Wells).—We cannot inform you what badges Petty Officer Evans, of Scott's party, had on his arm. We did not notice them.

W. F. G. (Cleethorpes).—If your motives for offering yourself to the electors as a candidate for the District Council were as you describe them, we regret your defeat. "If at first you don't succeed . . ."

J. M. M. (Glasgow).—The despotic action of the teetotal magistrates of Motherwell in the matter of the licences is not our idea of justice.

T. G. T. (Lincoln).—Your opinion of the speech of the Minister of Education about the shortage of teachers is ours to a large extent. There is a shortage of teachers—in districts where salaries are on a par with the wages of the road-sweepers.

J. L. B. (Maidenhead).—Certainly we do not believe in Wickliffe preachers smashing images in ritualistic churches, Fr. Ommanney's or any other. All religious worship, whether plain or fancy, is good in the measure of its sincerity.

D. P. (Congleton).—Your invitation to us to "take up the case of the poor helpless ratepayers of Congleton" does us proud, but if we did we should immediately be invited to take up the case of poor helpless ratepayers in every town in the kingdom. Besides, we don't believe in the "helpless" squeal. Ratepayers get the representatives they deserve.

"AN ENGLISH GIRL" (Toronto).—Your statement that it "is a well-known fact the majority of Canadian girls will run after any Englishman, be he married or single," is one of striking assurance. Look out for trouble.

"MAKOA SAN" (Shanghai) sends a suggestion for dealing with the Suffragettes, but he is quite mistaken in thinking it is new. The birch with a short hair-cut afterwards might or might not be effective, but it is imposs.

J. L. (Kidderminster).—The fact that Mr. Brinton was able to carry by a large majority at the meeting of the Brinton Musical and Literary Society his motion in favour of the abolition of the Party system and the substitution of Business Government is a healthy sign of the times your way.

"AULD REEKIE" (Edinburgh).—It is not worth while discussing football coupons with the peripatetic gasbags of the Anti-Gambling League.

"SUFFERER" (Fulham).—We agree that when a poor person has been out of employment a long time the Labour Exchanges ought not to be too particular in their inspection of his boots. By this time, we trust one of them has found a new job which will enable you to get adequately soled and heeled.

J. C. (Luton).—Undoubtedly some of these £1 "bale bargains" as advertised are a gross imposition on the public. We have said before, and we say again, that people can obtain better bargains by local shopping than by sending money on the strength of advertisements drawn up with intent to catch and deceive.

G. H. P. (Hebburn) is informed by J. A. (Grimsby) that Marcus Bebro died at the German Hospital at Dalston between two and three years ago. We think it was longer than that.

G. W. B. (Bush Hill Park).—As we previously informed another reader, we know nothing whatever of Maurice Ernst, LL.D. (Vienna), who has written a book on physic. Supposing, however, you have correctly described his qualifications, we should no more buy his book on physic than we should buy a butcher's on hair-cutting.

M. W. (East Stonehouse).—Your opinion that football is going back instead of going forward because clubs have ceased paying bonuses to players is hereby noted.

O. W. (Darlington) tells us that the Bond Street Bust Company, 72, New Bond Street, W., delivered in Darlington, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on the day of publication the bust referred to in our recent article. It will be remembered that it was paid for on March 9th, and that three or four stereotyped postcards were forwarded stating that the firm would write at once to their factory, as the order must have been overlooked. Better late than never!

S. W. (Derby), however, tells us that his wife three weeks ago sent 9s. for a bust, to receive the same "putting off" letters as we have reproduced. A week ago, therefore, he applied for the return of the money, but has heard nothing since.

S. W. R. (Bow).—As already stated, we are not medical experts, and are not in a position to express an opinion as to the merits of the Levison Eyesight Institute—or of the treatment of Doctor G. C. Percival.

H. D. (Crofton Park).—Sorry if the little sketch offended. Perhaps it would have been better omitted.

J. T. WICKS (Salford).—Why steal our thunder? You send us a postcard advocating a policy towards Germany that we have been preaching for years. We don't mind that. On the contrary, we are glad our views are spreading. But are you quite in order in calling it "Wicks' Doctrine"?

Don't Fail to Enter Our Cricket Competition. Fortunes Waiting. See page 643.

"CLERK" (Cardiff).—If we were you, we should not do business with Robert Radford of the *Matrimonial Times* or with the chief of works of any other similar concern.

"A HUMBLE COLLIER" (Pontyrhyl).—Many hundreds of our readers have received that snowball prayer. Thanks for your informing us our "publication's going down, I fancy now I see you frown, Still, it's really what it's worth, In fact it's sunk deep in the earth; Twelve hundred feet below the ground, Indeed your name includes all sound, Many a time discussion finds, My train of coal sadly behind." Our compliments and best wishes to all the boys.

W. W. J. (Bristol) and others.—As we have frequently stated, we are not medical experts, and so far as Mr. Elmer Shirley is concerned, we can only repeat that we are satisfied that, provided the conditions of his contracts are complied with, he is always ready to return fees where patients do not wish to continue his treatment.

C. H. R. (E. Southsea).—We are afraid you are too clever to live. If you can see anything funny in the sentence you quote, viz., "A large accession to the funds of the local Branch was secured by the sale of reserved seats," you must possess not eyes, but "a pair of patent double million magnifyin' gas microscopes of hextra power," as mentioned by Sam Weller. Go to.

E. W. W. (Ramsgate).—Sorry your burdens as a *chef* at the school are so heavy to bear, but of course we cannot hit the schoolmaster and his missus on the head merely to oblige you.

J. H. (Camberwell).—Thanks for news that Piccadilly is said to take its name from a restaurant built by one Higgins, a tailor, who made his money out of "piccadillies, *e.g.*, high collars or ruffs worn by the k-nuts of the period.

A. G. (Pendleton).—You ask us to "put it in big letters" that you have been discharged from your employment as a tram conductor because, in the words of the manager, "your state of health will not permit you to attend to your work regularly." The manager surely had little option in the matter. We trust you will presently be able to find a lighter berth.

C. H. C. (Glasgow).—Agreed that the ice-cream shops and restaurants bye-laws which the unco guids of Glasgow are trying to force on the population are an insult to Scotch sanity.

H. F. (Harlesden).—The hares hunted for the Waterloo Cup are not released from bags or boxes, but turned up naturally on the course. You will be asking us what jockey rode the winner next.

"BOGNOR."—An editor is entitled to investigate the truth of news items and other "copy" submitted to him for publication, but in doing so has no right to abuse the confidence of his contributor by showing his communications to a third party. An apology is certainly due to you.

"PROSPECTIVE STUDENT" (Burnley).—We know nothing about A. A. Brauns, of the A.B.C. School of Drawing. He might be able to teach you how to sketch your ideas for advertisements and he might not. It depends upon whether you possess the artist's faculty or not.

"JEWELLER" (Brighton).—You will be wise to have nothing to do with the Great Central Supply Co., Ltd., of 7, Denman Street, London Bridge.

"NYTSOM" (E. Dulwich) tells us that he is a private in the Territorial force, that he has two years to serve, and, having become engaged, his *fiancée* objects to his remaining a Terrier. He wishes to know whether he can obtain his discharge. If the lady can adapt herself to circumstances, "Nytsom" had better send her to make love to the Commanding Officer.

J. W. (Barnstaple).—We cannot inform you of "the addresses of some employment agents" who could secure you "a situation of clerk in South America."

W. McI. (Midlothian).—"How outside brokers get their shares at the same price as insiders and where?" By buying in the same market from those who have to sell.

"DEMOCRAT" (Brixton).—"Doubtless" we are "aware that in this Great London of ours the majority of us are compelled to exist on a wage far from sufficient for our needs." A consoling thought remains with us, however. The millennium is coming.

R. L. (Widnes).—Take a hot cross bun next Good Friday.

"DISGUSTED" (London, W.).—"Why does the aristocrat to-day expect the middle-class and the lower-ten to give their lives to keep them in luxury when men are not allowed to earn a living?" Ask us another one.

"ASTRO" (East Greenwich).—We know nothing for or against the Anglo-American School of Art Production, of Red Lion Square, London.

W. D. A. (Perth).—If you have twice written to the Manager of the London Palladium, making courteous request for a programme for which stamps were enclosed, the fault is probably with some of his subordinates.

A. I. (Highbury) complains that, though on 18th March he sent the Century Pottery Company, Burslem, the price of a tea and coffee set, up to the time of writing (April 23rd), he had not received the goods, which had been definitely promised for delivery on two earlier dates. Our correspondent is not the only one who has complained to us of such delay.

"PRECIS WRITER" (London).—By all means communicate with us. The matter will be treated in strict confidence.

"SAPPERS" (Plymouth) write complaining about "an idiotic Army Order," just issued, whereby soldiers are forbidden to cycle in khaki—a special dress must be purchased by each man from the regimental tailor. Our correspondents should enquire who is the official who will subsequently draw commission from "snip."

J. M. V. (Belfast) tells us that he has a very serious grievance against the National Health Insurance Commissioners. No doubt. Where is the person who hasn't?

J. S. (Ashtead) and a friend were induced by a lying tout to agree to take Bibles at the price of 50s. each. As they are under age, however, the little trick has this time failed.

"ATKINS" (Toronto).—We communicated with you, but the letter was returned by the Post Office, marked "Not found."

C. J. M. (Dumfries).—Your scheme for sending a dozen messages at once through submarine cables may be practicable. We are not electrical engineers, so cannot say. However, like the majority of inventors you appear to have a very hazy idea of business. You should approach the Cable companies, not us. Consequently we must regretfully say, "Ring off!"

W. H. C. (Camberwell).—You wish us to ask for subscriptions for the New Addington Athletic Club. Certainly.

A. L. (New North Road, N.) asks us, "very respectfully," to inform him what is our religion. Disraeli was once asked the same question. "The religion of every sensible man," he replied. "But what is that?" he was further asked. "No sensible man ever tells," he retorted.

"ANTHROPOS" (Brighton).—The Boers delivered their ultimatum on October 9th, 1899. The next day His Majesty's Government replied that it was impossible to discuss their demands. On the morning of October 12th Kruger's burghers rode to war, under Joubert, and crossed the Natal frontier. The first shot was fired at Kraaipan, where the Boers attacked and derailed an armoured train proceeding with two 7-pounders and ammunition for the use of Colonel Baden-Powell at Mafeking.

"A FRIEND OF ORPHANS."—As usually happens with anonymous correspondents, you make the most serious statements, but do not give us any opportunity of testing them. Name and address, please.

H. D. (Tunstall).—We quite agree that it is useless for the Home Office to make rules in regard to lead workers if the masters evade them or openly defy them.

F. L. R. (Newport).—As you have been in the grocery trade "all your life," we should hesitate to advise you to take up any other occupation unless you are conscious of real talent in some other direction. Surely there is scope in your trade for a smart and enterprising man? What about Sir Thomas Lipton?

C. B. H. (Hornsea) writes a somewhat cryptic note, but we fancy we can see through it. He says:—"Will you give me the Best advice. The Business is sold, and he has finished with the trade. I signed agreement not to start within 3 miles of Hornsea. Can I start for myself as he has finished." We haven't the faintest notion who "he" is, nor what is the business that has been sold, but we think that in the circumstances we would venture.

W. C. S. (Astwood Bank) says he does a country round every Saturday with newspapers and books, but has a job to get his money from some of his customers. "What would you advise me to do?" he asks. He can't do better than tell the bad payers he has written to JOHN BULL about it.

"A PATRIOT" (Belgium).—You have expressed our own opinions regarding the German menace in Europe, and the Boer danger in South Africa. But so long as the British public are content to be ruled by a set of muddle-headed Party politicians these ominous clouds, instead of dissolving, will grow blacker.

I. E. (Liverpool) writes:—"I am not the only one dissatisfied with the present laws." That's a fact. We know several others.

J. D. (London, E.C.) writes: "What about the Bulls who are slaughtered in Throgmorton Street? Do they all answer to the name of 'John'?" No; but don't some of them wish they did!

W. M. (Liverpool).—If you have been unjustly treated as a faithful and sincere servant of the Liverpool Mission, our best wishes are yours.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

"Bullets" is acknowledged THE BEST JUDGED of All Competitions.

Bull's Eyes.

Notes of Interrogation :—
Has *your* "Bullet" yet found its billet?
Is the Crystal Palace a "going" concern?
Will the Canadian Naval Bill get "footed"?
Are you missing that great catch on page 650?
Is Radium outside the radius of our hospitals?
Haven't the Belgian strikers missed their mark?
Isn't it the game to "pot your opponent" in Whitechapel?
Isn't the accent on the last syllable of Montenegrins now?
Are the German aviators trying to acquire the French air?
Wasn't it "a poor game" for some of the visitors at the Cup?
Doesn't Lord Alfred Douglas regret being a man of "letters"?
How many Marconi-crams have been told to the Committee?
Isn't it only tit for tat if the Suffragettes "blow up" a newspaper?

• • •

Placards We Should Like to See :—
Summer At Last.
Law Courts To Let.
Retirement Of All Killjoys.
Business Cabinet Complete.
Territorials At Full Strength.
The Suffragette Nuisance Ended.
Rag-Time Singers Heavily Fined.
All Betting Now Legal. Small Tax.
The Murdered Girl Scout—An Arrest.
Warship Rivalry—Germany Gives Way.
Government Life Assurance Bill Passed.
Divorce Reform. Bottomley's Bill Through.
New War Secretary. Lord Kitchener Appointed.

• • •

Modern Proverbs :—
Waist not, want knot.
Book before you peep.
Detention is often a cure.
Two beds are better than none.
Too many crooks spoil the cloth.
Every endowed has a silver lining.
A little kissing is a dangerous thing.
A mind of your own gathers no Boss.
A hitch in time saves the marriage lines.
What can't be insured must be endured.
A shot in hand is worth two on the cush.
There's many a blue word spoken up West.
You cannot marry the girl and her sister too.
It's an ill Company that blows the Directors no good.

• • •

Rapid Reviews :—
Burnt for Heresy—Overdone.
The Onion Patch—A strong lot.
On the Ganges—A flowing style.
A Slice of Life—Somewhat thin.
The Lighthouse—A delightful book.
The Smugglers' Cave—A good seller.
The Guilty Man—An arresting work.
Held in Check—Pity the author wasn't.
The Mysterious Cabman—A rank failure.
Story of Sea Shrills—Official information?
The English Summer—By no means dry.
British Railways—Has some good points.
Interest Tables—A book to be reckoned with.
The Naked Soul—Might be better wrapped up.
Victims—We were one of them, unfortunately.
Colonial Waste Lands—Room for improvement.
Finger-prints on a Letter—Shows marked ability.
From Pyramid to Tombstone—A monumental work.
The Children of Light—Left us completely in the dark.
The Marriage of Kettle—The author is evidently potty.
The Open Door—Makes too big a draught on our credulity
Save Us from Our Friends—So say the Author's intimates.
Come Rack! Come Rope!—Yes, anything to help us to forget.
Marriage—We can only repeat the historic advice to those about to read it.
'Twixt Land and Sea—"Half-seas Over" would have been the better title.

• • •

Does it need a Sorcerer to lift that America Cup?

• • •

King Alfonso was lucky to have the escape so soon after the fire alarm.

• • •

A whistling piano has been invented. Most people will blow the inventor.

• • •

A critic describes a book as full of "dewy humour." Tears of joy or sorrow?

The Goal of Success—From Villa to Palace.

• • •

"Leech Kills a Man," we read. But the leech wasn't a doctor this time.

• • •

"Pavlova's Return," says a headline. A very handsome one, we understand.

• • •

Winston Churchill is to visit the Kaiser at Kiel. On business, or only to Kiel time?

• • •

The L.C.C. are purchasing a dictating machine. But surely one won't be enough!

• • •

"No more night shifts," we read. Evidently someone will be left out in the cold.

• • •

"Will the pig become extinct?" asks a morning paper. No, we *must* save our bacon.

• • •

That bomb scare at the Bank was mild to the effect of some Company reports lately.

• • •

Snakes are fond of music, we are told. Now we know why quisby folk are so merry.

• • •

The two Suffragettes who captured the Monument undoubtedly took a rise out of the City.

• • •

A six-legged field mouse has been caught at Filey. With so many legs it should have got away.

• • •

There is a movement among Irish artists to start a club in London. Will they call it the Shillelagh?

• • •

Bonfire, which won at Derby by four lengths, was evidently too hot for the other horses to get near him.

• • •

The crowd at Hampstead wanted to duck the Suffragettes. We do not believe in quack remedies ourselves.

• • •

The Party Conflict according to Hansard :—Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George at the head of 389 columns.

• • •

A member describes the House of Commons as "a mere sausage machine." Yes, with too many "cranks."

• • •

The question of smoking in theatres is to be discussed. We have never found theatrical folk averse from "puffs."

• • •

"The Londoner has no fixed face," says Mr. Keble Howard. No, but some have a perpetual "stony" expression.

• • •

In a recent case it was stated that a shoeblack often earned £4 a week. But most of them start with a nugget.

• • •

The fact that the Queen has tried her hand at tile-making does not mean that she is trimming her own hats.

• • •

King Alfonso is said to have invested his private fortune in British securities. Preparing for a non-reigny day?

• • •

A French doctor has discovered 9,600 microbes on a razor taken from a barber's shop. It must have been a germ'un blade.

• • •

The religious ceremonies in honour of the Maid will not take place at Orleans this year. Are they going to keep Jeanne d'Arc?

• • •

A burglar was discovered in a railway station by a goat giving the alarm. Now the residents are calling the policemen names.

• • •

Three strokes with the birch were ordered a boy at Tottenham for stealing toffee. It is doubtful if he will refer to it as the sugar stick.

• • •

A Nottingham citizen who was asked to give some evergreens to the local hospital, replied by sending a cheque for £1,000. His name will be the evergreen now.

• • •

According to the Duke of Devonshire, the hardest-worked man in the United Kingdom is the Bishop of London. And yet there are silly people who would take on his job for a tenth of his salary.

The Biggest Cricket Prize offer made by any Periodial. See page 643.

Our Cricket Contest. — Enter this week.

Huge Cash Prizes!

£1,000	£250	£100	£50
FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT.	FOR NEAREST FORECASTS SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.	FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT FORECASTS.	SPECIAL LADIES' PRIZE.

THE cricket season having commenced, *now* is the time to participate in our great cricket contest. Our prize offer is a record one. Not only devotees of cricket, but every follower of football, should enter. A knowledge of cricket form can easily be acquired by reading the cricket columns of the daily papers, and with the help of our table of last year's results given with the coupon. Send in your entries at once.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

On page 2 of our cover you will find a coupon giving twenty matches which will be played on dates between May 12th and May 19th.

Cross out in ink the club you think will *lose*. If you predict a draw do not cross out either club.

Matches commenced and unfinished count as draws. If both sides score an equal number of runs the match will be regarded as being drawn.

Matches not commenced at all, not a single ball being bowled, will be ignored. Thus—

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

£1,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an Entrance Form giving a correct forecast of all the matches given. In the unlikely event of no entrance form being received containing all the correct forecasts, we shall award the huge sum of

£250 IN CASH

to the competitor sending most correct forecasts, even if the number be only 8 or 10, and *in addition* we shall award a second prize of **£100 in Cash** to the competitor sending in the next highest number of correct forecasts.

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

The competition is one of skill and we recommend readers to study cricket form by reading the cricket columns of the daily papers.

As a guide to competitors we give with the coupon on page 2 of cover last year's results of the matches we have selected for this competition.

NO FEES. NO SCORES REQUIRED.

The COUPON will be found ON THE INSIDE of FRONT COVER.

READ These RULES CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the clubs you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either club.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "**JOHN BULL,**" **25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.,** mark envelope in top left hand corner, **Cricket Competition** No. 1. so as to reach us not later than first post Monday, May 12, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The £1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches, as published in the Sporting Life.

4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all correct results, £250 will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of correct forecasts, short of the full number, and £100 to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts. In addition a distinct cash prize of £50 will be awarded to the lady sending most correct forecasts on a MAUVE COUPON taken from MARY BULL

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupon sreceived.

6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

7. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the £1,000 prize or the contingent prizes of £250 and £100 as well as the special £50 ladies' prize, will be equally divided.

THE CLOSING DATE IS MONDAY, MAY 12.

£50 For a "MAUVE" Coupon.

We cordially invite ladies to enter the above cricket competition, and they can do so by filling in the coupon on page 2 of our cover. But if a lady makes use of the **mauve coupon** to be found on the cover of **Mary Bull**, on Sale every Friday, she not only has the opportunity of winning the £1,000 or the contingent prizes of £250 and £100, *but also an additional and distinct cash prize of £50 for Ladies only.*

Send your Entries Early. Fill in the Coupon NOW.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 650 where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week in addition to more than 5,500 cash and other prizes to the value of over £1,895.

John Bull League Notes.

(By the General Secretary.)

The objects of the League are :—In Religion : *To stamp out Cant, Self-righteousness and Sectarian animosities.* In Social Life : *To stimulate a spirit of robust self-reliance in place of the artificial protection of grandmotherly legislation*—*and* In Politics : *To Promote the establishment of a* Business Government *in substitution for the present effete and dishonest Party System.* All applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., accompanied by 1s. annual subscription.

Shrewsbury.—As a result of the recent Parliamentary election—which is dealt with fully on another page—it has been decided to form a local Branch of the League. It is hoped to secure the late Business Government candidate, Mr. Councillor Morris, as its Chairman—with Mr. Griffiths as Honorary Secretary. With such a combination the Branch should become a very powerful adjunct of the League.

Sheffield.—A difficulty having arisen in regard to the Hall, it has been decided to postpone the President's meeting till the autumn. All money sent for reserved seats has been returned.

Dundee.—A most successful Smoking Concert was held on Wednesday last week, when members and supporters of the Branch turned out in full force. A good increase of membership is also reported. Mr. D. Ballingall, of 69, Dens Road, Dundee, is the local Treasurer.

Glasgow.—A first-class Social was held at the Lansdown Restaurant, Hope Street, on Thursday last week. During the evening Mr. H. H. Ognall delivered an address on some aspects of the formation of a Business Government. A large number of new members was enrolled.

Leeds.—The local Executive have under consideration the running of candidates for the next Municipal and Parliamentary Elections, and are at present engaged upon an active canvass of the members. Mr. Ferrell, of 59, Tonbridge Street, is the local Treasurer, and all subscriptions should be sent to him at once.

Plymouth.—The local Executive have decided to run a Business Candidate for the St. Andrew's Ward at the next Council election. The Branch held their annual general meeting on 7th April at the Corn Exchange, and elected a sound Executive to carry on the propaganda. The Branch will inaugurate the summer campaign by a Smoking Concert at the Farley Hotel, Union Street, on Saturday next, at 8 p.m. Tickets, sixpence each, may be obtained from Mr. B. Turner, at 15, Fellowes Place, Stoke.

Cardiff.—The local Branch have provisionally booked Saturday, May 9th, for their re-union. Members and supporters should apply to Mr. R. W. Webb, of 3, Ceridwen Terrace, Pontypridd, for particulars. All subscribing members will receive an admission ticket free. Mr. S. W. Howell, of 38, Burlington Terrace, Canton, Cardiff, is the honorary Treasurer to the South Wales Federation.

Hull.—Following upon the President's recent visit to the City Hall, the local Branch resume their active campaign, with Mr. Hy. Matthews as Secretary. He will shortly call the annual meeting, and hopes to elect a strong and influential Executive. The temporary local headquarters are the Imperial Hotel, where all communications should be addressed. Mr. F. W. Sayer, of 38, Chariot Street, is the local Treasurer, and all subscriptions should be paid to him at once.

Bristol.—On Wednesday last week the local Branch held their annual general meeting at the Kingsley Hall, Old Market Street, when a most interesting address was delivered by Mr. B. G. Brown, a speaker of considerable ability. A strong Executive were elected. Subscriptions are now due and payable to Mr. G. T. Clements, of 234, Newfoundland Road.

Liverpool.—The local Secretary, Mr. G. S. Haines, 48, Woodlands Road, Aigburth, will be very glad to hear from members and supporters who are willing to stand for election on the Executive. Mr. W. B. Russell, late Chairman of the Leeds Executive, is now back in England, and has promised his whole-hearted support to the Branch.

Mr. Edmund Gwenn as Enos Llewellyn in the play of "Little Miss Llewellyn." (Camera Portrait, Hoppe.)

Nerve Strain, Lassitude —

MR. EDMUND GWENN, the popular actor-manager now playing in "The Schoolmistress" at the Vaudeville Theatre, London, writes:—"Certainly you have my permission to publish my opinion of the capital tonic and energising qualities of 'Phosferine.' The strain of two performances daily, combined with the business worries inseparable from theatrical management, have a natural sequel to the frequent fatigue and nervous irritation which beset one. To ward off the effects of heavy and strenuous work there is nothing better than a few doses of 'Phosferine,' which I have found dispels any feeling of languor and helps to keep one wonderfully fit."—March 6, 1913.

No other medicine has received such absolute proof of its extraordinary properties in restoring Shattered Constitutions, and in giving back to the prematurely aged New Life and Energy.

CAUTION

There is only one Phosferine—beware of illegal imitations—do not be misled by PHOSPH THIS or PHOSPH THAT, but get

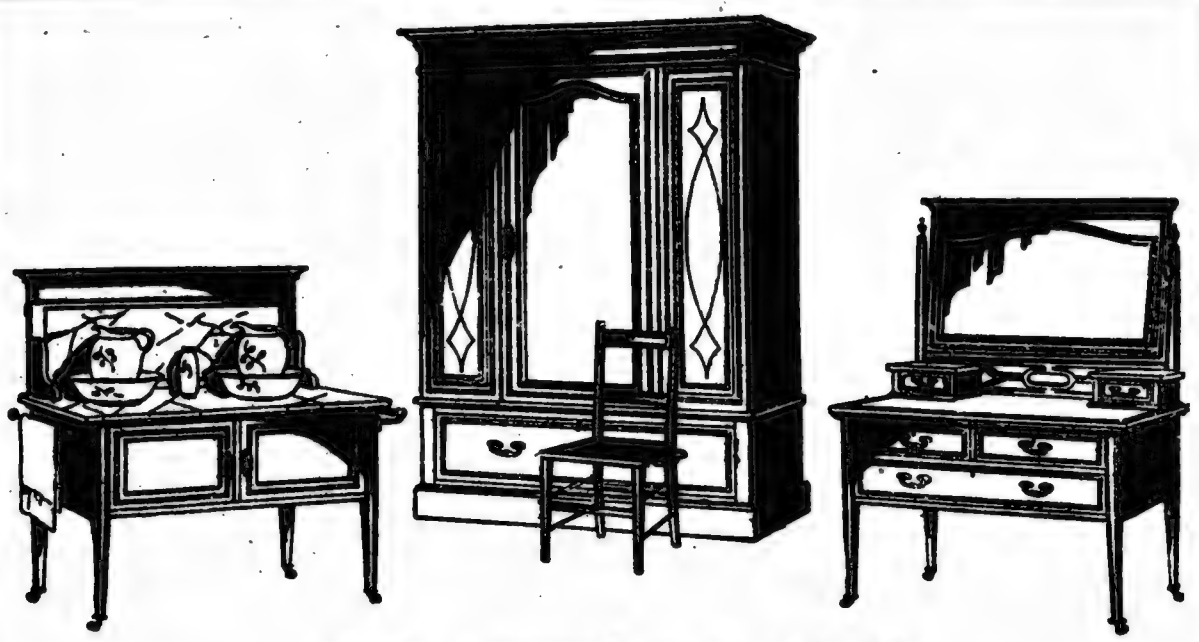
PHOSFERINE

THE REMEDY OF KINGS
Supplied by Royal Commands

To the Royal Family
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Spain

H.M. the late King of Greece
H.M. the Queen of Roumania
H.M. the Queen of Spain, etc.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.



"The Danvers" Suite, £14 14s.

A nicely finished Suite designed on Sheraton lines. Very carefully made of Mahogany, inlaid with satinwood and ebony. The Suite comprises a 4 ft. Wardrobe, with shaped bevelled mirror in front, and large drawer in lower part; 3 ft. 6 in. Dressing Table with large mirror, 3 ft. 6 in. Washstand with marble top and back, and two Cane Chairs.

Every article in our showrooms has been carefully made from high-class materials. Midland quality and Midland value have been tested by the public during half a century, and our huge business to-day proves conclusively that we have given satisfaction.

10% *discount for cash. No charge for credit.*

Railway Fares Paid.

Country Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Second-Hand Dept.

Our Second-hand Department alone contains over £10,000 worth of Furniture. Send for special weekly Second-hand Catalogue.

THE SAXBY.

A luxuriously upholstered easy chair, designed in the Queen Anne style, with spring platform and loose, shaped down cushion. Covered in tapestry £4 12 6

Ideal Payment System.

Under our Ideal Payment System you pay only the plainly marked prices on the goods. No deposit, no interest, no charges.

TERMS.

Worth.			Month.		
£10	...	...	£0	6	0
£20	...	...	0	11	0
£30	...	...	0	17	0
£40	...	...	1	5	0
£50	...	...	1	8	0
£100	...	...	2	5	0
£200	...	...	4	10	0

Larger amounts pro rata.

A Complete Furnishing Guide.

We have prepared a very elaborate complete Guide to the furnishing of the House, containing hundreds of illustrations and several coloured plates. A copy will be sent you post free on request.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

London's Leading Furnishers,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats.—9 till 1.

A

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page 648.*]

The Stock Markets.

Latest advices from Scutari are of the opera bouffe order, and it is difficult to see how the great European Powers can tolerate the alleged secret compact between King Nicholas and the Turkish Pasha who has assumed the Government of Albania on his own account. This should make for united action of the Powers, as even Russia cannot support such conduct. Markets have not been quite so firm, but there is a strong undertone and there has also been more business, especially in Kaffirs and Rhodesians, which apparently will be raised to a higher level by the big firms concerned in them. Home Rails are steady, and there is little doubt but that investors will turn very largely towards these. The unfavourable view expressed in this column of the Yankee Market has been fully justified by events, and a fresh decline has been forced by the "Bears." Canadian Pacifics are fluctuating with Yankees, and are still too much under Berlin influence to be safe as a speculation. The Grand Trunk Pacific issue has not found favour with the public, and the underwriters have had to take 80 per cent., whilst in the case of the Madras and Southern Mahratta issue they have been saddled with 90 per cent. The State of Bahia Loan is also, we believe, meeting with a poor reception. Rubber shares are in the doldrums, especially Linggi and other old producers, which are proving disappointing. Oil shares are firmer, which is not surprising in view of the higher prices for oil in Galicia, Roumania and America. Copper shares have been under a cloud in sympathy with American Rails, but Tins are looking up, and there has actually been a rise of $\frac{5}{8}$ in the West Australian section—viz., in Golden Horseshoe, but that will not perhaps last. Mexican Rails are weaker on further reports of political difficulties in that Republic, and Foreign Rails are comparatively dull, but Consols are distinctly firmer in view of cheaper money.

Industrial Insurance Frauds.

Some time ago we stated that the "Pearl" was as big a sinner as any other Company in regard to the methods adopted by its agents for the purpose of extracting industrial assurance premiums from the pockets of the poor. A case recently before the County Court confirms our view. Having read certain warnings in this journal, a grocer, of Hingham, took steps to set aside certain policies which he had taken out in this Company. And this is what the Judge said in ordering the return of the premiums: "It was a case of unparalleled and impudent fraud, as gross as had ever come before that Court. No worse case of imposture and imposition had ever come before him. . . . It was in the interest of the public that this kind of thing should be stopped, and stopped immediately." Thank you, Mr. Judge Mulligan.

The Ivory Coast Corporation.

We referred in our issue of March 1st to the complete falsification of every one of the estimates contained in the prospectus of this concern, which, as our readers know, was promoted, together with several other equally disappointing ventures, in the offices of Messrs. Goodlet, Fairbairn and Berry, at 6, Broad Street Place, E.C. Since then our attention has been directed to the report on the San Pedro territory, made by Mr. I. T. Hawkins, M.I.C.E., F.G.S., etc., to the vendor Syndicate, and dated London, April 30, 1910. The prospectus being issued in July, 1910, it may be assumed that the promotors and directors of the Company took steps to obtain confirmation of the material statements in this report, seeing that they were incorporated in the prospectus. We propound the following questions to them, and shall be pleased to publish their replies:—

1. What justification existed for the statement that the port of San Pedro was without a bar?

2. Is not it the fact that the San Pedro river is not navigable for over 10 miles by any craft drawing over 3 feet?

3. Is not it the fact that no rubber from the Ivory Coast can be delivered in Europe at a cost of 1s. 6d. a pound?

4. Is not it the fact that the palm trees on the territory had grown wild for years and were choked and neglected?

5. Is not it the fact that not 2 cwts. of Piassava fibre has been obtained up to date, that no timber has been shipped from the property so late as June last, that the "sixty villages in the territory" yield a population of less than 1,000, and that the establishment of trading stations would be absurd, seeing that there are, we understand, no traders at San Pedro?

Now, as to the concession itself. The Company standing in the shoes of the original concessionaries is bound to respect the rights of the natives, and cannot touch anything grown on the area reserved for the latter. This area (there being sixty villages) is from 1 to 2 kilometers in extent, and it has been stated to us on good authority that what is outside it is nothing more than an impenetrable virgin forest. We are aware, as stated in our first article, that the directors have already admitted that the prospectus estimates had not been justified, but we are not dealing with the estimates now. We are challenging some of the material statements of fact made in the prospectus upon which the public subscribed, and if our information be correct, shareholders, in view of the manner in which this Company was formed, are not bound to accept as binding upon them the compromise which the directors made with the vendors. We are the more anxious to have this matter dealt with as we notice that three of the original directors of the Scottish Maikop Oil Wells, Ltd.—another promotion by the same "house"—have lately retired from the board, in circumstances which call for investigation.

"Optisbare, Reg., London."

This is the telegraphic address of some philanthropists who have adopted the title of the "North British Investment Co." What they don't know about Canadian Pacifics is not worth bothering about. They have been puffing these shares periodically for some time past. According to their circulars, those who followed their advices and indulged in the marginal investments in that stock made profits every time. A few months ago the amount was said to have been £4 on each £10 invested; more recently "an actual profit of £16 on each £10 invested on our marginal method, all in the space of a few days." We don't believe a word of it, and challenge the "N.B.I. Co." to give us the name and address of a single *bonâ fide* client who made any profit at all. But, assuming that their statements be true? The position would then be that the "N.B.I. Co." are systematically losing money; for, being principals in these alleged transactions, every penny profit made by their clients spells a loss to them.

Sunday Prospectuses.

We have observed a growing tendency on the part of certain company promoters to utilise the advertisement columns of some of our Sunday contemporaries for the exploitation of their prospectuses, doubtless in the hope that the investor will have more time at his disposal to read their alluring announcements and also, we imagine, that thereby they may escape our criticism, particularly when, as in the case we refer to, the list of applications closes before John Bull is on sale. We find an illustration of this in the issue of Debentures by the Ecuadorian Corporation, and we look in vain for some guidance from that financial purist, the City Editor of the *Observer*, in whose columns an abridged prospectus appears. The issue in question is of £337,500 *Six* per cent. Debentures, *at a discount of 7½ per cent., and carrying a bonus of 20 per cent. in fully paid £1 Ordinary Shares, available in a year's time.* Now it will be apparent that the yield for debentures is abnormally high, and it behoves us, therefore, to examine very closely the security which is offered. Summed up it is "in the air." We are told that the Debentures constitute a floating charge upon the assets of the Corporation; that the *estimated* revenue from various apparently highly speculative interests amounts to under £40,000; and that the service of the Debentures and a totally inadequate sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum would absorb nearly £25,000. Bearing in mind that the tiny State of Ecuador is in the zone of revolution, and that the security of the Debenture holders is precarious in the extreme, we strongly advise those of our readers who have been foolish enough to subscribe, to *telegraph* their withdrawal. Nor do we find any condemnation by the *Observer*, of the "offer" of 50,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares in Borax Consolidated, Ltd., at 42s. 6d. by some undisclosed vendor. We remember the paroxysms of righteous indignation in which this financial and legal expert indulged a few months ago when a pioneer syndicate offered for sale a certain number of working capital shares in an important imperial enterprise, on the ground that the particulars given did not comply with the provisions of the Companies Act. Compared with the meagre details of the offer of Borax Consolidated Shares, to which the financial expert of the *Observer* apparently takes no exception, the information given to investors by those responsible for the introduction of the shares of the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa was ample in the extreme, and the latest developments of that undertaking must be a source of considerable irritation to this financial purist.

3 Words may make you Independent for Life. See page 650.

A GREAT IMPERIAL ENTERPRISE

OIL WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

A £1 Share That May be Worth £200.

RESULT OF EMINENT EXPERT'S VISIT.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

No more shares in this important undertaking can now be obtained at par, in view of the fact that one of South Africa's leading geologists and mining engineers, Mr. J. E. MILLS-DAVIES, the company's technical adviser, who has recently returned from a visit to the properties in the Ceres district, Cape Province, has taken the responsible step of locating boreholes, with the result that drilling operations will be immediately commenced.

A report, as the result of this visit, has been received from Mr. MILLS-DAVIES, in which, after fully describing the geological character of the ground, he says "The most important indications of the existence of petroleum upon your "properties is the gas which has been observed at Bailie's Gat, and concerning "which the evidence seems unquestionable. This gas has been found along the "lower edge of a wide band of shale, which outcrops several hundred feet. "It occurs just where one would expect to find gas or oil if the formation "held petroleum. The shale band may be regarded as a cover which would pre-"vent the escape of gas or oil below. It is beneath this shale that a search should "be made for petroleum." And in a letter since received, Mr. MILLS-DAVIES says, "There is ample justification for investigating the problem in a "systematic way."

* * * * * *

It may be recalled that the capital of the Company is £250,000, including £50,000 working capital, in shares of £1 each.

* * * * * *

The properties, in the Ceres district, controlled by the Company are about 150 square miles in extent, and are in one block.

* * * * * *

The Company has the exclusive right, for a period of ten years, to work OIL AND ALL OTHER MINERALS over this extensive territory, and the right, at any time during that period, to purchase the freeholds of the properties.

* * * * * *

Extracts from other eminent Experts' Reports, published in this page from time to time, show that their authors are all of the definite opinion that Petroleum, in payable quantities, abounds on the Company's properties.

* * * * * *

The Company is a parent undertaking, its policy being to dispose of Oil rights, over given areas, to subsidiary Companies, retaining a substantial interest in them.

* * * * * *

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority its £1 shares may easily attain the value of £200 from its Oil rights alone.

* * * * * *

In the opinion of the Editor of "John Bull," this important enterprise is destined to mark the dawn of a new era in the Oil production of the World, and the shares of the Company constitute "by far the most attractive purchase in the Oil Market to-day."

* * * * * *

Investors and others interested will be supplied with full particulars on application.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.
80, Coleman Street, London. E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, *New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—F. J. (Bradford).—We cannot do better than refer you to the announcement appearing on another page in this issue.

MELVILLE GLYN AND CO. (PARIS).—P. G. (Hong Kong).—We do not advise continuing the payment of the instalments to these people. Deal with Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of 10, rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris.

NORTH BRITISH INVESTMENT CO.—SCOT.—We are obliged for your letter with enclosure. We deal with these people in "City Notes."

INDUSTRIALS.—W. H. F. (Brighton).—The first mentioned concern is highly speculative, and it will have to meet the powerful competition of the existing Companies. We do not recommend the investment. We also think that you might take an opportunity of getting rid of the other shares mentioned.

PETROL CO.—Y. U. P. (Dalston).—In the present state of our information we should not advise you to take up the shares.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE.—A. F. F. (Nottingham).—We do not advise dealings.

ELECTRIC COMPANIES.—PERPLEXED.—After making the most searching investigation, we can find no trace whatever of these two concerns, and apparently they are no longer in existence. There is certainly no market or value for the shares.

TRINIDAD OIL.—J. B. B. (Blairgowrie).—The news from this property is certainly more favourable, but, for choice, we would prefer purchases of the leading Maikop shares, the fall in which has been quite overdone and whose weekly returns are now improving again.

MEXICO N.W. BONDS.—CAMBERWELL READER.—This line has, more than any other, suffered greatly from the revolution, and it will evidently take a long time before the Company gets on its feet again, while the market is haunted by fears of default. However, the Bonds have lately been firmer, and the recovery should make further progress if the new Mexican Government is able to stamp out any further revolutionary upheavals.

BUCKET SHOPS.—GLASGOW.—Both are bucket-shops, and have nothing to do with the Stock Exchange. We should not be surprised if they were all th same people, trading under different names.

FINANCE CO.—ENQUIRY (Kent).—Your best plan is to make an enquiry either through Kemp's or Stubb's Mercantile Agency. In a case of this kind, you must exercise the greatest discrimination, or you might find that you have jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire.

FANCY INVESTMENT.—J. R. (Montreal).—We do not approve of this kind of fancy investment, and there is usually a screw loose somewhere. You will find it much more advantageous in the long run to invest in a sound, leading Company doing this kind of business, and of which there should be plenty available in such an important city as Montreal.

OIL CONCERN.—F B. (Birmingham).—In reference to this answer, which appeared in our issue of last week, we desire to state that it does not relate to Hatton Morris and Co. or the Galician Standard Oil Co.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—ONE ANXIOUS TO KNOW.—The policy on the life of your mother-in-law was illegal when issued seven years ago. The Act of 1909, however, condones these, and you cannot, therefore, claim a return of the premiums paid on the ground of absence of insurable interest. The Act mentioned makes it clear, however, that the person assuring must establish that he had, at the time, a bonâ-fide expectation that he would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assurred. The point you have to consider is whether the provision we have mentioned influenced you to apply for the policy. You had better consult a solicitor.—J. H. P. (Morriston).—Unless it can be shown that your brother officially notified the Company of his address in America, whence the premiums were remitted by him, the Coinpany is only legally called upon to deliver the notice at his last known abode. Your complaint is that your brother inadvertently omitted to send a premium when due, and that, the period of grace having expired when the premium was received, the Company returned same, informing your brother that the policy had lapsed and was therefore void, which means that all payments made became forfeited to the Company. Your contention is that the Company had knowledge that the premiums were being remitted by your brother from America, and that the notice of lapsing should have been posted to him there. You also inform us that your mother died in November last. Unless advised, the Company could reply that they had no knowledge that your brother was permanently residing in America, and we do not see, therefore, that you would be successful in an action for the recovery of premiums paid.——BETSY. It is difficult for us to advise as to your position without seeing the policies. If the policy on the life of your uncle, who did not sign the proposal form, is issued in his name direct, you could obtain a return of the premiums paid. We are surprised to note your statement that you have paid over £40 for assurance totalling £18 10s. only. If the Company will pay you a Cash Surrender Value for the whole of the policies you hold, that would probably be the best way out of the difficulty. As regards the Surety Bond, if a claim is made by the Company, send us the particulars and we will advise.

ANNUITIES.—ANNUITIER.—Sun Life of Canada, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.; Confederation Life Association, 23, Fleet Street, London, E.C.; Canada Life Assurance Co., 15, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.; Scottish Widows' Fund, 9, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; or National Provident Institution, 48, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., should suit you. Obtain prospectuses and compare.

CALEDONIAN INSURANCE CO.—BANKER.—This is a high-class office and not likely to unnecessarily delay settlement of any just demand. Write and ascertain when you may expect a settlement.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO.—G. M.—This is a progressive office, soundly established, and you may rest assured that the Annuity contract your brother has entered into with them is quite safe and will be duly honoured.

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—R. G. (Abertillery).—The case, as you represent it, contains some extraordinary features. Your husband effected an insurance on his life for £14 16s. at a weekly premium of 8d. After making personal sacrifice to pay up all premiums in arrears you receive a notice that the policy was cancelled. You ask for an explanation, and the Society reply "it is against the Board's custom to divulge their reasons for cancelling assurances." At the same time they ask whether you are prepared to accept the return of the premiums paid in full settlement of the matter. You agreed, as you could not afford to take the case into Court. A representative called and paid you 16s. 3d. only. You asked for an explanation, when a second payment was made of 11s., making together £1 7s. 3d. You say you have contributed £2, and on requesting a further explanation, the Society informed you that their representative was instructed to return you the full amount paid. Subsequently the Society write: "The Committee do not propose to take any further action herein." We gather, therefore, that instead of receiving £2 you have been paid only £1 7s. 3d. You are 84 years of age, and your husband is in the workhouse infirmary. When the arrears of payment were paid you tell us that you had to pawn your dress to raise the 11s. required. A few days later the policy was cancelled. Perhaps the Society will inform us (1) what reason they assign for cancelling the policy; and (2) what explanation they have to offer for the treatment meted out to a poor woman; and (3) why the full amount of the premiums has not been paid according to promise.

ANNUITY.—DELTA (Stockport).—Of the three Companies you mention we should prefer the Sun Life of Canada. You might also obtain prospectuses from the following:—Canada Life, 15, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.; Commercial Union Cornhill, London, E.C.; English and Scottish Law Life, 33, St. James's Square, London, S.W.; and Gresham Life Assurance Society, St. Mildred's House, Poultry, London, E.C. The security offered by each of the above is unimpeachable. The latter is an exceptionally strong office.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—M. B. (Silvertown).—Foreigners must be insured, whether they receive wages or not for their services, and whether they are permanently resident in this country or not. The benefits payable are less in the case of aliens than in the case of British subjects. The rate and conditions of sickness benefit, disablement benefit and maternity benefit will be such as may be determined by the society to which they belong.——T. A. (East Ham).—Your daughters not being employed under a contract of service are excepted from being insured. Children of an employer receiving no money payment as wages or in respect of employment, and persons who are maintained by their employer without wages need not be insured.——H. S. (Stockwell).—We think you had better answer the questions. The Commissioners have large powers of interpretation of the Act itself, and are entitled to know the nature and extent of the support your wife receives from you.

COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—TONTINE ESTIMATES.—You hold a Twenty Annual Premium Payment Whole Life Policy, and you find a startling difference between the estimates given and the sums you are now quoted under various options. These disappointing and grievously annoying results are by no means unusual in connection with this class of policy. You have paid in premiums £121 10s. The estimated Cash Value was given as £176 4s. This amount you expected, and are now offered £76 19s., the excuse being that the prospectus only contained "estimates," not "guarantees." All the option benefits, we observe, are seriously reduced as compared with the original estimates. We are of opinion that these "estimates, not guarantees," of special benefits "expected to be realised and often exceeded by actual settlement" should be discontinued, as they are clearly unreliable and disappointing. You must make the best of what has turned out to be a vexatious investment by accepting the comparatively small Cash Value now offered, and thereby terminate your connection with the Society.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—KEW.—This Association is genuine. It is not, however, correct to say that a £200 house can be purchased by the payment of 8s. 8d. per month for thirty years. The 8s. 8d. represents the subscription payable only; in addition, interest is payable in respect of any loan granted. We prefer the ordinary Life Assurance Policy combining House Purchase benefits.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

A Cash Prize of £50 for a "Mauve" Coupon. See page 643.

More About Sweepstakes.

HINTS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF READERS.

We are constantly receiving enquiries with regard to the numerous sweeps for which tickets are being sent out from various parts of Switzerland. Many of them, as we have already explained, are simply swindles. The public are robbed right and left by a set of scoundrels who should be working for a living in one of our gaols. They manage to escape justice because the amount invested by each subscriber is small, and its loss is scarcely worth troubling over, and when a man has been fleeced he profits by his experience and does nothing towards protecting other people. We paid many visits to Switzerland during 1912, and for a time our articles seriously interfered with the bogus sweepstakes promoters. We have been to Switzerland again, and whilst most of last season's "firms" have disappeared, the men behind them are still on the spot, and are bidding vigorously for business under new names. We could give a long list of firms to be avoided, but this would prove of very little service, for the people would at once start again under other names. All we can do is to lay down a few simple rules for the guidance of our readers.

In the first place, do not buy a ticket for any sweep until you have first asked our opinion about it. Do not part with your money and *then* write to us. Write to us first, and we shall probably save you something. If you receive a sweep ticket stating that enormous sums are offered in prizes, read the ticket carefully and find out if the payment of this money is guaranteed in full. If it is not, do not buy tickets, for it is quite obvious that the promoters are trying to mislead you. Do not attach any importance to the statement that the Press are invited to be present at the drawing. Such an offer means nothing. We have tried to take advantage of such offers made by various firms, and in many cases have been unable to find them. Find out if the promoters have conducted any previous sweeps. If so, ask them for the names and addresses of their prize-winners, and ask how much these winners got. Also, ask how the money was paid, and then send the information on to us. Do not be misled by a result sheet which only gives the so-called winning numbers. Numbers by themselves are worthless. There is not one man in a thousand who objects to his name and address being published when he wins a prize. If you buy a ticket for a sweep you should have a result of the draw *before* the race.

This course is always adopted by the leading firms—such, for instance, as H. Diamond, of Lucerne. We have been present at several drawings of his—in fact, on one occasion we took charge of the whole of the proceedings—and we have checked the printed result sheets and always found them absolutely correct in every detail. What is the result? Although he sells tickets at 1s. each, he is able to guarantee the payment of such a large sum as £2,000 in prizes, and is, indeed, putting up £3,000 for his Derby sweep, and so with the JOHN BULL and other straight sweepstakes—where definite sums are guaranteed, the promoters taking the chance of profit or loss. That the latter event sometimes happens was shown in the case of Mr. Diamond's sweep on the English Football Cup, in which he guaranteed £1,250 in prize money. The sweep was a complete failure, and the result was a heavy loss. It would seem that those who subscribe to racing sweeps are not interested in football sweeps.

In our previous articles we have described the method of drawing adopted by the best firms. For the benefit of new readers we will give a brief account of Diamond's Grand National drawing. Two wheels were used. One wheel contained the numbers of all the tickets that had been paid for. The other wheel contained sixty-three metal tubes with screw tops. Each of these tubes contained the name of a horse entered in the Grand National. Both wheels were turned, a tube was taken from one wheel and a numbered ticket from the other. Both were laid on the table in front of the company, and the small tube was opened and the slip taken out. The name of the horse typed upon it was then called out, followed by the number of the ticket taken from the other wheel, with the name and address of the person who had paid for it. After each horse was drawn both wheels were re-locked and turned again. The actual drawing was conducted by two interesting little Swiss girls. After all the horses had been drawn, the wheel which had contained the sixty-three tubes was of course empty, and was not needed any further. We then proceeded to draw two hundred additional numbers from the larger wheel, and each of these numbers entitled the holder of the ticket to a Consolation Prize of £1. A further five hundred were drawn, and each of these was entitled to 10s. Finally, two thousand more numbers were drawn, and each of these was entitled to 5s. It must surely be obvious that only by drawings conducted in some such manner as this is it possible for fraud to be avoided, and we hope the general outline now given will be of assistance to the public in keeping them off frauds.

FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS!

The enormous sum of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS is offered every week for the best "Bullet" received. "Bullets" is the simplest of all competitions and a few minutes' work can win you this record prize. But if you don't succeed in securing the Premier Prize, there are 5,542 other prizes to be won every week.

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS RECORD OFFER!

FIRST PRIZE **£500** **FIRST PRIZE**

£75 SECOND PRIZE. **£25 THIRD PRIZE.**

10 Prizes of £2 10s.
10 " " £1
20 " " 10/-

TOTAL PRIZES VALUE **£1,895**

500 Prizes of 5/-

5,000 OTHER PRIZES VALUE OVER £1,100.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

WHEN WIFE'S OUT	CAPITAL	CLOSE FINISH	WHEN IN DEBT	SELF HELP
MODERN GIRLS	CRICKET SEASON	A TIGHT FIT	SOFT AND LOW	BORROWED UMBRELLAS
SELDOM SEEN	KEEP OFF	GREY HAIRS	COMING SOON	NAKED TRUTH
LATEST REVUE	THE KING'S BOUNTY	HER TOP NOTE	ALWAYS PAYS	MIXING DRINKS
THE RACECOURSE	PUBLIC NUISANCE	CLEAN STUMPED	CATCHING IT HOT	MOST SUSPICIOUS
HAPPY ENDING	VERY WET	CAN'T THINK WHY	SUFFRAGETTES' TACTICS	NEIGHBOUR'S DOG
FACING THE MUSIC	WHEN MOTHER-IN-LAW INTERFERES	BAD BEGINNING	WON'T LAST	BIG BREAK
PRICELESS TREASURE	SEX EQUALITY	HER RELATIONS	WIDOW'S WILES	THE BARE IDEA

THE BIGGEST WEEKLY PRIZE OFFER MADE BY ANY PERIODICAL.

IMPORTANT.

Every "Bullets" coupon received is slowly and carefully judged by TWO different Members of our Special Staff of Adjudicators, all of whom are journalists of the highest ability, specially qualified to undertake such work. Thus, every coupon is judged twice, and the possibility of a 'Bullet' displaying merit being overlooked is eliminated.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "GREY HAIRS," and take the letters "A" and "I," using the word "old" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet, "INDICATES OLD AGE." Or from the example "THE RACECOURSE," the Bullet, "SOMETIMES PROVES EXPENSIVE," can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "HER RELATIONS," using the letter "T" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "TANTALISE HUBBY TERRIBLY."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Closing date, Wednesday, May 7th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(31) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated May 10th.

Closing date, Wednesday, May 7th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(31) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 31," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

RESULT OF 28TH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £450:—

Mr. W. VERNON GLEDHILL,
30, Clayton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Example.—SHORT CUT.
Bullet.—TO ETERNITY—HENDON!

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. GEORGE OSTLER,
35, Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent.

Example.—BLIND.
Bullet.—LANDLADY WHEN BUTTERING.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25

Mr. J. B. McDONALD,
48, Merchiston Avenue, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Example.—MUCH APPRECIATED.
Bullet.—ATLANTIC WHEN "PACIFIC."

TEN Prizes of £2 10s.:—

Mr. W. A. CARLIN, 12, Barrington Rd., Wavertree, Liverpool: SHORT CUT—TO LUNACY, RAGTIME.
MABEL ROBERTS, 21, Palatine Buildings, Moss Lane West, Manchester.
MY COMPLAINT—APPETITE OUTRUNS POCKET.
Miss AMY S. TARRY, 394, High Street, Lewisham, S.E.: WHAT FATHER SAID—FINANCE NOT ROMANCE.
Mr. H. WILLIAMS, c.o. Cope Allman and Co., Icknield Square, Birmingham: GO AWAY—ALIENS WHEN OPULENT.
Mrs. A. HUGHES, 36, Whitefriars Crescent, Southend-on-Sea UPS AND DOWNS—SHY BATHER—PHOTOGRAPHER.
Mr. JOHN MEENAN, 36, Susanville Road, Dublin, Ireland: GO AWAY—OLD SOLDIER'S GRATUITY.
Mr. T. LEATHERBARROW, 43, Beechville Avenue, Scarborough: NOT HAVING ANY—INQUESTS AT HOLLOWAY.
Mr. ARTHUR E. BAXTER, Pleasant View, Linthwaite, Huddersfield: NOT HAVING ANY—ALPHONSO-BULLETS APPARENTLY.
Mr. LAWSON PHILLIPS, 13, Bridge Avenue, Hammersmith: WHAT FATHER SAID—"ALL UNDER TWELVE."
Rev. R. J. COYLE, 2, Woolstone Road, Catford, S.E.: DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN—LESSENS THE DANGER.

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

ADAMS, F., Glencairn, Braintree, Essex.
COOPER, S., Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.
COX, F., 259, Mortlake Road, Ilford, E.
INNES, L., 287, Unthank Road, Norwich.
KAYE, E. M., Mrs., 27, Darfield Place, Ashley Road, Leeds.
LEPINE, K., Miss, 14, Doods Road, Reigate, Surrey.
MACKAY, R. O., c.o. 89, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
NETHERCOT, HETTY, 30, Melbourne Rd., Bishopston, Bristol
PINKERTON, WM., Eburnham Street, Lancaster.
WATHEN, WM., Senr. Station Master G.W.R., Draycott, Somerset.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

BENTLEY, J. W., 82, Bank Street, Clayton, Manchester.
BROWN, F. M., Athenæum Club, Glasgow.
COLLINS, Mrs. H. T., 38, Glenparks Road, Forest Gate, E.
DAVIES, J., 23, Malefant Street, Cardiff.
FORD, H., 2, Pemberton Street, St. Helens, Lancs.
GOING, E. M., 20, Waller Road, New Cross, S.E.
GRANT, A. S., Stirling House, Queen's Place, Watford.
HAMSON, W., 12, Avon Street, Hamilton, N.B.
HARMAN, H., 111, Russell Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
HEATH, W., 144, Parade, Leamington Spa.
HERON, C. A., 7, Oxford Road, Bradford, Yorks.
HITCHEN, E., 24, Church Street, Heaton Norris, Stockport.
HUXLEY, J., Talybont, Bangor, North Wales.
JACKSON, Mrs. L. N., Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent.
KAY, W., 85, Market Street, Droylesden, near Manchester.
LOCKE, F., 9, Harbord Street, Bishop's Park, S.W.
McMILLAN, G., 185, New Kings Road, Fulham.
TATE, C. E., 14, Christchurch View, Armley, Leeds.
WHITAKER, W. B., 124, Brighton Road, Croydon.
WILLIAMSON, J. S., 35a, Sandgate, Ayr.

SELECTION FROM LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 28.

A Selection from the List of 5,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mary Bull," dated May 17th.

Adams, J. H., 176, Broad-st., Crewe.
Adams, Mrs. S., 38, Addison-rd., Hove.
Adamson, M. A., Nurse, West View, Hexham.
Agnew, T., 36, Colvil-st., Strandtown, Belfast.
Allen, Annie, 53, Montholme-rd., S.W.
Alliford, Margaret J., 113, Sankey-st., Warrington.
Ashdown, E., 28, Gloucester-st., Theobalds-rd., W.C.
Bailey, A. S., 10, The Promenade, Palmer's Green, N.
Bain, T., 20, Roman Place, Roundhay, Leeds.
Baker, M., 3, Sloan-gdns., S.W.
Baxter, G. H., Sunny Hill, Halton, Leeds.
Benson, G., c/o Samuels, Ltd., Ludgate Hill, E.C.
Bishop, C. W., Ewe and Lamb Hotel, Leighton Buzzard.
Baswick, G., 195, Queen's-road, Cheetham.
Blake, E. L., "La Mascotte," The Park, Ashford, Kent.
Bradley, F. H., 64, Claremont-rd., Alexandra Park, Manchester.
Braithwaite, Miss M. F., "Paragona," Walliscote-rd., Weston-super-Mare.
Branch, Mrs. E., "Hillcroft," Kingsthorpe, Northampton.
Bray, Lucy, 20, Watery-st., Sheffield.
Bright, G. V., Ashton Villa, North Place, Cheltenham.
Brown, T. H., 57, Frithville-gdns., W.
Brown, J. A. V., 10, Randolph-ct., Portsdown-rd., W.
Bull, A., Newdegate-sq., Nuneaton.
Burrows, J., 51, Seymour-rd., Leyton.
Callander, Mrs. H. J., "Ingleside," Russell-ave., St. Albans.
Cameron, J., Solicitor, 46, Tay-st., Perth.
Cammell, G. A., Corpl., 2 H.L.I., The Barracks, Mullingar, Ireland.
Canadine, A., 53, Orrell-lane, Aintree, Liverpool.
Carne, W., "The Bungalow," Eastwood-rd., Rayleigh.
Cavel, N., 67, Teneriffe-st., Hr. Broughton, Manchester.
Chamberlain, H. C., 29, Lansdowne-rd., Ettington.
Chapman, H., 138, Hainton-ave., Grimsby.
Chappell, H. G., Burneston, Bedale.
Chappell, H. R., 62, Sotheby-rd, N.
Cheverton P., St. James's House, Newport, I.W.
Chilvers, M., 29, Waverley-ave., Wembley.
Chisholme, Miss E., "Fontmel Priory," Grove-rd., Bournemouth.
Clarenbernie, C., c/o Mr. Wightman, 35, Bobber's Mill-rd., Hyson Green.
Clarke, J. H., "Mossgreen," Crossgates, Fife, N.B.
Clatworthy, N., 63, Goodwin-st., Hull.
Clive-Matthews, N., 72, Marine Parade, Worthing.
Coath, A., 19, Amesbury-rd., Roath, Cardiff.
Cole, W. M., Claremont Villa, Datchet.
Collier, P., 3, Newton-terr., Elburton, nr. Plymouth.
Collin, J., 44, Mount Pleasant, Crook, Darlington.
Collison, F., West Park-rd., Blackburn.
Cooper, D. G., 81, De Beauvoir-rd., Rdng.
Cooper, E. P., 8, Manor-st., Wigston, Leicester.
Cordwell, W., 5, Wilderness-terr., Harleston.
Corner, F. H., 1st Life Gds., Cambermere Barracks, Windsor.
Cross, E., 13, Chester-rd., Sunderland.
Cross, F. H., 41, Laurel Grove, Penge.
Crowle, F. S., 9, St. Andrew-sq., Edin.
Crowther, F. G., 57, Oak-rd., Scarboro'.
Cruickshank, J., 69, Wellington-rd., Lancaster.
Crutchley, F., 77, Middle-st., Stroud.
Crozier, W. E., 18, Eversley-rd., Bexhill.
Cuckson, E., 31, Morton-terr., Gainsboro'.
Cugley, Miss A., c/o Madame Florence, Torbay-rd., Paignton.
Cugley, L. W., Studio, 18, Union-st., Torquay.
Cullerne, D'A., 33, Marlborough-rd., Wimbledon Park.
Cunningham, J., 1, Churchyard Row, Newington Butts, S.E.
Curtis, S., 43, Hardwick-st., Liverpool.
Davies, Mrs. S. A., 30, Moriah-st., Rhymney, Mon.
Davies, H., 20, Hill-st., Rhymney, Mon.
Deamer, A. J., "Times" Office, Melton Mowbray.
Dollman, J. G., 14, Newton-grove, Acton.
Dryden, J., 2, Baldovan-terr., Dundee.
Easton, A. A., 14, Hemington-ave., Friern Barnet, N.
Edgar, J., 5, Armitage-st., Lower Broughton, Manchester.
Foster, Violet, 496, Gloster-rd., Horfield, Bristol.
Evans, E. S., 277, London-rd., Croydon.
Fox, A. E., 65, Wick-rd., Brislington, Bristol.
Freeman, R. W., 20, Russell-st., Stroud.
Gabler, G., Hairdresser, c/o M. Harris, Station-rd., Liphook.
Galbraith, T., 44, Tannsfeld-rd., Syd'ham.
Gane, W. P., Church House, West Cranmore, Shepton Mallet.
Garcia, V. H. F., "Homecroft," Oakleigh-rd., Barnstaple.
Gardner, J., 26, Belmont-rd., Portswood, Southampton.
Garrard, Mrs. L. E., 91, Belle Vue-rd., Ipswich.
Garrod, R. C., 22, Norfolk-st., Lowestoft.
Gibbon, E. F., 9, Barn-st., Haverfordwest.
Giles, F. C., 18, Suffolk-st., Jarrow-on-Tyne.
Gill, G., 7, Woodlands, Bradford-rd., Stanningley, Leeds.
Gillow, O., 34, Brougham-rd., Seacombe.
Godwin, S., 30, St. Edward-st., Leek.
Golden, H. C., 12, Fonthill-rd., Finsbury Park, N.
Grindall, Miss B., 13, Autumn-st., Burley Lodge-rd., Leeds.
Goslin, R. W., 14, Maud-st., Hightown, Manchester.
Hale, E., 15, Hawkshead-st., Southport.
Hardcastle, Miss D. G., 2, St. Ann's Mount, Burley, Leeds.
Hardisty, H. E., 21, Fisher-st., Workington.
Harvey, Isidore, High-st., Andover.
Hay, A., 32, Montgomery-st., Edinburgh.
Heighway, F. J., 36, Tresco-rd., Nunhead.
Herbert, G., "Ynisforgan," Morriston, Swansea.
Heron, F. W. D., "Allendale," Kingsway, Woking.
Isaacs, T. S., 35, Victoria-st., Bridport.
Jackson, A. E., 34, Avenue-rd., Lewisham.
Jackson, H., 94, Charles-st., Swinton, Manchester.
James, J. H., 8, Woodville-ave., Gt. Crosby, Liverpool.
Jenkins, A., 81, Clifton-ave., Harehills, Leeds.
Johnston, J., 101, Tettenhall-rd., Wolverhampton.
Johnston, C., 109, South-st., Ponder's End.
Jones, H. G., 27, King's-rd., Faversham.
Jones, T. O., 22, Syren-st., Kirkdale, Liverpool.
Kitching, T., B.A., Ricroft, Morecambe.
Lacy, T. W., 6, Kelsey-st., Lincoln.
Lewis, S. O., 424, Moat-rd., Warley, Birmingham.
Lomas, Miss M., "Ashleigh," Strines, nr. Stockport.
Longworth, A. W., 4, Bath-rd., Southsea.
Lyons, Mrs. L., 14, Granville-rd., Crumpsall.
Maffuniades, Mrs. J., 9, Bruce Grove, Tottenham, N.
Margo, G., 43, Pretoria-rd., Tonyrefail.
Magill, V., 170, Fawe Park-rd., E. Putney.
Makey, G. H., 52, Charter-rd., Altrinch'm.
Martin, Mrs. B., 22, Beach-rd., Southsea.
MacDowell, F. J. B., 49, Coinagehall-st., Helston.
Maclean, A., 16, Balliol-rd., Oxford Gardens, W.
McDonald, A., 23, Melrose-gdns., Kelvinside, N. Glasgow.
McIntosh, A. R., 4, Perseverance-st., Dodworth-rd., Barnsley.
McKelvey, K. A., "Holmwood," Monkham's-ave., Woodford Green
Miller, C., 16, Cottage Grove, Portsmouth.
Mitchell, A. H., 30, Marjorie-grove, S.W.
Molloy, J. E., 42, Oak-st., Welverh'mpt'n.
Morgan, Mrs., "Heather Dene," Penn Hill-ave., Parkstone, Dorset
Neaves, C. W., 45, Vicarage-ave., Derby.
Newbould, G. T., Westfield House, Rawmarsh, Rotherham.
Newcombe, H., 27, Duke's-ave., Dorch'st'r.
Newsham, J., 69, Sidney-rd., Bootle.
Newton, Rose, 29, Golder's-gdns., N.W.
Nicholls, W., 42, Gt. Howard-st., L'pool.
Orton, W., High-st., Doddington, March.
Pampling, J., 21, Fulbrook-rd., N.W.
Parry, Mrs. E., 13, Thorold-rd., Ilford.
Patterson, W., 150, Manor-st., Belfast.
Phillips, J., Rhyddings, Neath.
Pitt, A., Red Lion Hotel, Stone.
Pottenger, G. J., Sidmount Vale-rd., Parkstone.
Probert, W. T. O., St. Agnes' School, Kennington Park, S.E.
Rankin, J. A., 138, Milton-rd., Gravesend.
Ravenor, R., Oxford-st., Newbury.
Rayner, W., 27, Roundwood-rd., Ipswich.
Read, M., "Larissa," Preston, Paignton.
Reddall, Mrs. C., 122 King Edward-rd., Birmingham.
Reed, Miss G., 1, Tay-terr., Dundee.
Revells, Mrs. K., 28, George-st., Bute Docks, Cardiff.
Reynolds, H., 13, St. Mary's Gate, Staff'rd.
Rice, Mrs., 198, Low Waters, Hamilton.
Riddle, Edith, Workhouse Infirmary, Hillingdon, Uxbridge.
Ringer, W. H., 135, Lincoln-st., Norwich.
Ringrose, Miss, 142, Hainton-ave., Grimsby.
Roberts, E., 80, Old Tiverton-rd., Exeter.
Roberts, F., 39, Beecholme-rd., Upper Clapton, N.E.
Robertson, J., 124, Waddell-st., Glasgow.
Robins, E., 105, Pelham-rd., Wimbledon.
Robinson, C., Willow Green, Horsforth.
Rodger, W. B., Gowanlea, Portobello.
Rossant, Mrs. E., "Tresillian," 5, York-pl., Port Talbot.
Routledge, W. R., 22, Leinster-ave., East Sheen, S.W.
Rowbottom, J., 48, Western-rd., Tunbridge Wells.
Rowbottom, E., 34, Manor-ave., Grimsby.
Rowe, A. W., 24, Lambourn-rd., Clapham.
Rowlay, J. T., 33, Marsh-st., Bradford.
Rowles, B. A., 22, Ethelbert-rd., Margate.
Ryan, T. M., 5, Foster-pl., Dublin.
Scott, C. E., "Sunnydene," Braunstone, Leicester.
Shaw, J. S., 57, Lyndhurst-rd., North End, Portsmouth.
Shott, E., 11, Rutley-gdns., Kennington Park, S.E.
Shrubb, Mrs. R., 9, Daniel-st., Bethnal Green, E.
Smith, Mrs. H. E., Euston Theatre, W.C.
Smith, T. E., 50, Sandringham-rd., Cardiff.
Squires, J., 224, Washwood Heath-rd., Birmingham.
Stevenson, J. H., 51, Bray-st., Belfast.
Stewart, W., 9, Drumellan-st., Maybole.
Stone, A. H., 83, Durlston-rd., Kingston-on-Thames.
Stott, J. C., 103, Shaw-rd., Royton, Oldham.
Stroud, G., 1, Whitbread-rd., Brockley.
Tanner, Mrs. A. M., 26, Grange-rd., Bishop's Stortford.
Thomas, Mrs. C., Ash Villa, Gabalfa-rd., Llandaff North.
Thompson, J., Low Shirecreen, Sheffield.
Till, G. A., 114, Mill-st., Macclesfield.
Turner, A., 48, Church-st., Camberwell.
Wallis, F., Hull-rd., Hessle.
Ward, Mrs. J. V., Oxford-rd., Mistley, Manningtree.
Warner, F., 70, Lake-st., Ferndale.
Watkins, C., 20, Bull Ring, Ludlow.
Watson, A., 5, Regent-st., Greenock.
Watson, J. H., 34, Sutherland-rd., Derby.
Watt, H., 37, Whitworth-terr., Tredegar.
Watt, Mrs. J., 116, Renwick-st., Kinning Park, Glasgow.
Webster, H. A., 17, Church-gdns., Dorking.
Wheeler, W., Nurse, The Hospital, Ottershaw, Chertsey.
Whitefoot, Mrs. E., 157, Cemetery-rd., Sheffield.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*)

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 650, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, May 7th.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Complete List of 5,000 Winners of Valuable Prizes can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

The "Guineas."

At the time of writing it is not certain whether Mr. Hulton will start Shogun for the Two Thousand or whether he will rely solely upon Fairy King. This indecision seems to denote some want of confidence in the Derby favourite, and in the circumstances perhaps it will be as well to leave him out. At Newmarket they are divided in opinion between Louvois and Sanquhar. The former has not done too well in recent trials, and over the Rowley Mile Sanquhar might prove his conqueror, and still have little chance of taking another Derby for Lord Rosebery. Radiant, as a result of a big trial at Wantage, is now being freely talked of as the likely winner, but considering his form as a juvenile, compared with that of those with whom he will be running to-day, his chance is certainly not an obvious one. It really seems after all that we must return to our first love and take

CRAGANOUR

as the best. He was lbs. in front of all the others last season, and though at Liverpool recently he smudged his record, it was evident that he was nothing like ready then, and Robinson has slipped plenty of good work into him since then.

Nothing much is known of the present form of the fillies that will run for the One Thousand. Mr. Whitney will have a dangerous candidate in either Panasine or Fly by Night and Early Girl and Coora are other Newmarket fancies. Probably the provincial stables will furnish something good enough to beat all these, and

TASLETT

should take the prize to Beckhampton.

Other Races.

To-day, (Wednesday), FORWARD III., unlucky at Epsom, should take the Heath High Weight Handicap, and ENGLAND can win the Bretby Handicap. On Thursday, the best things are THE MARKER for the Brinkley Welter, MONAR for the Ely Plate and NAVAL ENGINEER for the Peel Handicap. On Friday, MILTSIN in the Three-Year-Old Handicap, ST. MARCELLA in the May Plate and AMBUSH in the Friday Welter, all look good.

At Windsor, on Saturday, SERGOI can win the Speedy T.Y.O. Plate and LE SOLEIL, on the Epsom form, is good for the Romney Handicap.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.—R. T. S. B. (Birmingham).—Of course, the Sweep is going on, and also very strong.——E. W. (Hassocks).—Quite genuine.——J. H. (Bromley) —You will certainly receive from Mr. O'Brien a detailed receipt for any emittance you send him.——R. G. G. (Marylebone Road).—We understand that Mr. O'Brien's staff has been working under considerable pressure of late, which probably accounts for the delay which has occurred. Your friend doubtless by this time has received an acknowledgment of his counterfoils. If you will give us his address, we will make further enquiries.——ENQUIRER.—If you will send us your name the address, we will look into the matter.——AJAX.—We have good reason for predicting that the Prize List will be very substantially increased.——WALLSEND.—We appreciate your point, but understand that although the full result of the Draw will be published in our issue for the week ending June 7th, Mr. O'Brien will specially advise those who draw horses.

THE PEOPLE'S SPORT (Arlesheim).—JOHN BULLITE.—We are unable to recommend these people, whose statement that theirs is the "only Sweep controlled by the State" is an obvious falsehood.

BRITISH INVESTMENT AGENCY (Geneva).—DUBIOUS (Horncastle).—We think your suspicions are well founded.—P B. (Leigh-on-Sea).—Have nothing to do with these people's sweepstakes.

H. GRAHAM (Grosvenor Square).—H S. (Beckenham) AND OTHERS.—We cannot undertake to adjudicate in betting disputes except in cases referred to us by our advertisers, but from the tone of this man's correspondence we think he is a "dead wrong 'un."

CALCUTTA DERBY SWEEP.—E. R. K. (Lincoln).—J. E. W. (Huddersfield).—Tickets can now be obtained only through members of the Calcutta Turf Club, and it was this restriction which prompted Mr. O'Brien, of Geneva, Switzerland, to promote the JOHN BULL Derby Sweep, for whose bona fides we can vouch.

COMMERCIALE AGENCE DE KRIENS AND BERTRAM ET CIE (Kriens, Switzerland).—A. J Q. (London).—You are quite right in having nothing to do with these people, who, as we have already stated, are in no sense "banquiers." We are sorry you should have been troubled with such a large number of circulars.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—LORENZO.—We sent our special representative to conduct Mr. Diamond's Grand National and City and Suburban Draws, and his report was to the effect that everything was scrupulously honest and above board

We have to repeat that we cannot undertake to adjudicate upon betting disputes except in such cases where such disputes may be referred to us by arrangement between any of our advertisers and their clients.

"Gale's Special"

The "SPECIAL" that Guarantees Your Success.

A reputation for definite and reliable intelligence combined with straightforward and honourable business transactions, and a desire to impart to each one of our subscribers the best news it is possible to secure with the honest purpose of maintaining that reputation, and thus retaining the continued support and kind recommendation of our subscribers, is one of our greatest assets to-day.

Next Monday's issue of "Gale's Special," published at 2/6, will be sent post free in plain sealed envelope upon receipt of 1/- P.O. or Stamps to all readers of "John Bull" enclosing this paragraph.

Gale's Primus Wire

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SERVICE EVER INAUGURATED.

Everyone who goes racing knows that there are times when certain stables place out commissions upon selected horses that have had special preparation to materialise profitably, and it is on these special occasions that the Racing Adviser, who is permitted to learn of these projected "coups," advises his patrons to invest double and even treble their usual stakes. This, however, is not an everyday occurrence, and it seldom happens that more than one or two commissions of this description are put into operation in one week.

During the past Winter Season the **EDITOR OF "GALE'S SPECIAL,"** in conversing with one or two of the largest commissioners in the country, made special arrangements for exclusive information respecting these S. P. Commissions, and a few days prior to the commencement of the Flat-Racing Season communicated with the majority of the subscribers to **"GALE'S SPECIAL,"** intimating that he was introducing a new series of telegrams which he had decided to call

GALE'S PRIMUS WIRE,

and the first message sent out was on Easter Wednesday, March 26th, when our subscribers received **PERSUADE** (10-1) Won. The next Primus Wire was on Thursday, April 3rd, when each subscriber received **CARRIGRUE** (10-1) Won, and this was followed by another Primus Wire on Tuesday, April 8th, when each subscriber received **MASTER MACDONALD** (100-8) Won, the latest selection at the time of writing this advertisement being **ARRIET** (10-1) Won, sent to all subscribers for the Primus Wire on Saturday.

It may be again mentioned that we definitely promised that in the event of failure we would send a free **TATTERSALL'S RING WIRE** to all who subscribed for the **PRIMUS WIRE**, but up to the present we have not been called upon to send out any Compensatory Messages, owing to the soundness of this special and exclusive intelligence, as each selection sent out on the **PRIMUS WIRES**, four in all, has proved successful.

First Selection, Easter Week:
PERSUADE (10-1) Won.

Second Selection, Liverpool:
CARRIGRUE (10-1) Won.

Third Selection, Warwick:
MASTER MACDONALD (100-8) Won.

Fourth Selection, Newmarket:
ARRIET (10-1) Won.

The charge for this Special "Gale's Primus Wire" is TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS PER MESSAGE. The information sent out by the Editor on these special messages is obtained from a source that is quite unavailable to the ordinary Racing Adviser, and in no circumstances whatever is more than one selection ever mentioned on this message. It amounts to this, **one selection only — the best selection that money, brains, and influence, can procure.**

The next selection on this **Gale's Primus Wire** will be sent from Chester on Tuesday, May 6th, and

As a Special Offer to "John Bull" readers we will send this Special Wire upon receipt of £10, instead of the usual charge of £25,

and unless the selection sent out is successful, and at reasonable odds, we guarantee to send our next Tattersall's Ring Wire **entirely free of charge.** On the other hand, should the selection win at the odds of not less than 8 to 1 against, subscribers will, of course, forward the balance of £15.

Note that our ONLY address is:—

"Gale's Special,"

Ruskin Buildings, Birmingham

Telegraphic Address: "WINNERS, Birmingham."

LESLIE MURRAY & CO., BINNINGEN, SWITZERLAND.

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Credit and Deposit Accounts. Book of Rules on application.

J. McLAUCHLAN, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND. Established 20 Years.

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NO LIMIT!

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Managing Director. - - - - H. CULLERNE-BOWN.

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The following claims have been received:—

Mr. T. KELSEY, 31, Yardley Street, Coventry. March 8th. No. 386,495.

Mr. A. SANGSTER, 8, Innes Street, Longsight, Manchester. March 8th. No. 019,253.

Mrs. E. BIRCH, 50, Howe Street, Derby. April 5th. No. 976,436.

Mr. B. RUSSELL, Hill Hall, Swinfen, near Lichfield, Staffs. April 5th. No. 330,281.

Mr. J. MAHOOD, 187, Conway Street, Belfast. April 5th. No. 083,498.

Mr. J. SCOTT, 7, Hazeldene Road, Chiswick. April 12th. No. 305,508.

Mr. M. DOVEY, 38, Midland Avenue, Lenton, Nottingham. April 5th. No. 430,985.

Mr. A. PEDDIE, 21, Roxburgh Street, Grangemouth, Scotland. March 29th. No. 036,006.

Mr. W. A. EAMES, 4, Amoy Street, Bedford Place, Southampton. April 5th. No. A89,321.

Mr. J. T. CROSBIE, 24, Maidstone Road, Lowestoft. March 29th. No. 445,591.

Mr. J. KELLY, 24, Erskine Road, Poulton, Cheshire. April 5th. No. 687,707.

Mr. G. R. ROWE, Army Service Corps, No. 6, Warrant Officers' Quarters, Broonhill Road, Woolwich. March 22nd. No. 302,117.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of April 26th:—

000234	172872	401270	652404	882312
010045	200346	422519	671679	896400
027250	221095	450127	698326	921804
047916	243944	492745	719934	958222
077249	256235	526493	749561	972250
095388	262894	543697	767064	A008430
121781	278281	562471	775748	A096121
135097	300347	616891	829563	A115405
149726	330948	622222	855809	A142569
169115	390563	636458	862398	A204714

The A prefixed to the drawn numbers indicates it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED MAY 7TH).

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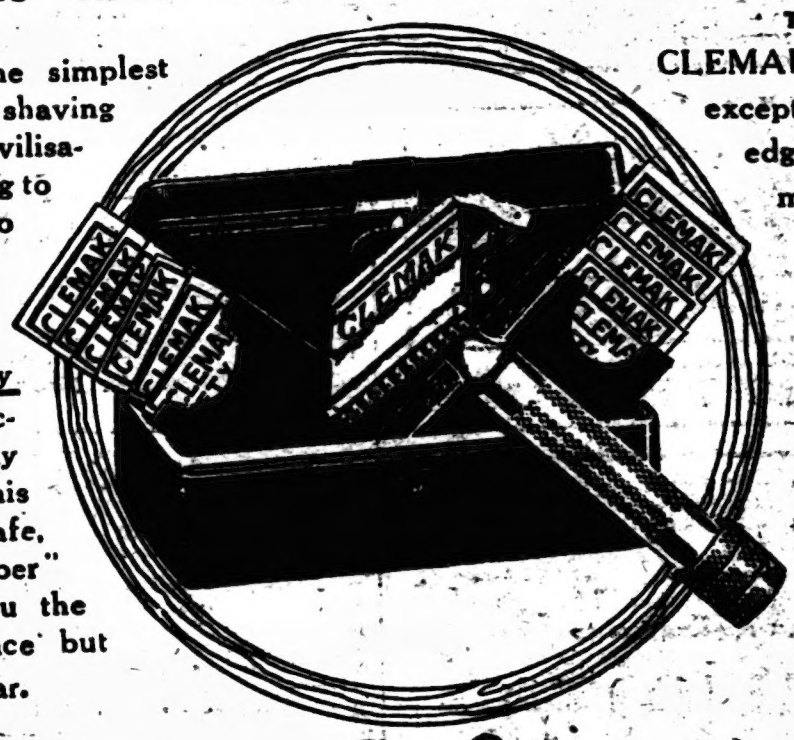

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